# DEPRIO

INSIDE TODAY'S NEW-LOOK SECTION TWO

Can the young be rocked into voting?

Curious tale of the missing ostrich

Complete guide to the next seven days



Blair:

We're

the

centre

party

now

Chief Political Correspondent

Tony Blair yesterday made it

clear he was prepared to drive Labour to the right of British politics in pursuit of the voters who deserted Labour and se-

cured four successive general election victories for the Tories. The Lahour leader, in a

speech in New York, staked

Labour's claim to the centre

ground, but said he was pre-

pared to cross the boundary to

Promising "radical solu-tions". Mr Blair said: "If at times

they cross left-right boundaries,

so be it. And so what."
He added: "I am a radical. I

believe the centre can be fertile

ground for radical politics. The

extremes whether of left or

right simply will not meet the

real challenge. A modern par-ty to be successful in the mod-ern world must be in the centre, speaking for the mainstream

His defiance of the traditional

left wing of the Labour Party

will please his supporters, but

the right if necessary.

COLIN BROWN

## Israel's bitter vengeance

It was a muggy, grey spring day on the Beirut seafront and the on the Berrut seafront and the first rumble sounded like the last of the winter storms; a hleak coughing sound high above us. It was only when the strollers on the Corniche began staring skywards that I noticed the hlack and white puffs of anti-aircraft fire speckling the clouds and the tiny mosquito-sized. and the tiny, mosquito-sized helicopters racing far out along the wave-line. After almost 14 years, the Israelis had returned to Beirut with a vengeance.

Almost before we bad seeo them, two of the helicopters -American-made Apaches turned over the seafront and there was a sullen pop-popping sound like a toy gun and two small puffs of white smoke rising from the southern suburbs of Beirut - the carryons of highrise apartment blocks and narrow streets in which many of the Hizbollah leadership live. Their target, the Israelis would claim later, was the "operational nerve-centre" of the Hizboliah - although the organisation's headquarters later emerged apparently untouched.

There were few Lehanese who did not believe that Mr Shimon Peres' battle to convince Israeli electors on 29 May that he can strike at what he calls "Islamic terror" lay behind the appearance of those belicopters over Beirut. Mounting casualties among Israel's occupation troops in southern Lebanon and repeated Hizbollah missile retaliation on Galilee for the Israeli shelling of civilians inside Lebanon meant that the "red line" which had for so long restrained the Israelis from attacking Beirut would almost certainly be crossed.

Yet when it was crossed, it took less than a minute for Beiru, to melt back into the wartime nightmare that so ended. Panic-stricken motorists, their headlights blazing, their hands clamped on the horn,



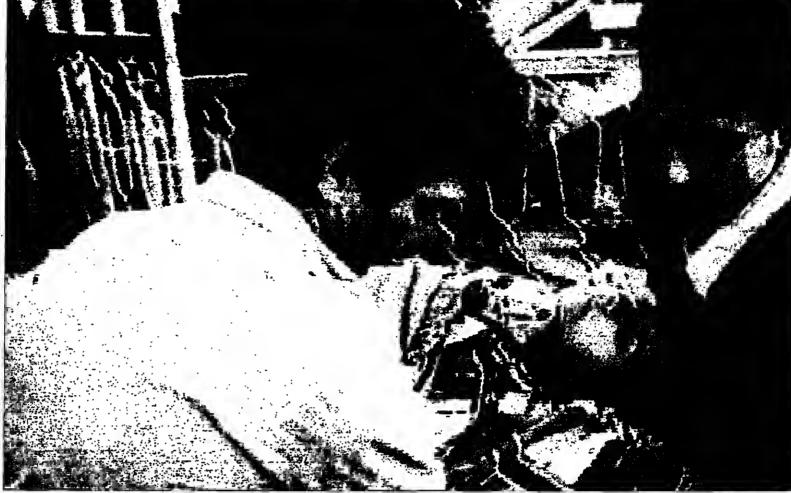
Robert Fisk, Foreign

Reporter of the Year, in Beirut on the day the Israelis struck back

hlasted their way through the traffic jams. An ambulance, careering from side to side and up on to the pavement, siren screaming swept past us with a carload of armed men behind it. In the Sahel bospital, a young man with his face hathed in hlood was surrounded by tele-vision crews. "I was walking in the street and all I remember is a flash and then I found myself covered in blood," he said.

And the gunmen were back in the southern suburbs, bearded Hizbollah men with American M-16 rifles and rocket-propelled grenades, kitted out in welbing and camou-flage jackets and captured Israeli helmets. Even the Lebanese radios reverted to their wartime role of endless ocws bulletins interspersed with the haunting laments of Fairuz, that most famous of Lebanese singers, whose voice is forever linked to the borror of the 16vear conflict that was supposed to bave ended.

The news was all bad: a 27year old woman killed in her car by a missile-firing belicopter south of Beirut; a civilian killed House that Jack Built. in an air raid in the inland town of Nabatea; a 60-year-old man



's southern suburbs yesterday is carried away for medical treatment

cut down by the Beirut rockets. The raids were in retaliation, said the hulletins, for the Katyusha attacks on Israel, which were retaliation for the killing of a 14-year-old Lebanese boy, which might have been retaliation for a suicide bombing against Israeli troops, which was retaliation

southern city of Tyre, he just had time to tell me that Israeli Apache and Huey belicopters were hovering over the city. They're mounting mobile checkpoints in the air," he said. "They're watching everything that moves." Then the line went dead. The lines went dead all over Lebanon, just like the

deserted, its shops closed, its restaurants empty.

Wheo I drove into the southern suburbs at dusk, the only men standing on the street corners were armed: The Hizbollah's green-painted central offices - supposedly the "nerve-centre" which the Israelis said they had attacked - stood ap-

etly to me that the Israelis had raelis killed civilians, the Hizbollah always fired back into Israel, he said. He hlamed the Israelis for the death of a boy in Bradchit village at the

board, a bearded man close to

the Hizbollah announced qui-

on his mobile telephone in the ghost city, its streets largely miniature television on the side-balance. Now the balance is shall see who screams first."

weekend.

shifting to the resistance. Hitting civilians is crossing a red line for our resistance forces. This has nothing to do with targeting of military beadquar-

"I tell you this: the hand of the resistance is long and is capable of hurting the enemy. We have an expression here - that we and the Israelis are biting ouse that Jack Built. terday morning. By early after-dingy office where a Donald ror now," the man went on. each other's fingers. The biting When I called an old friend noon, it was turning into a Duck cartoon was playing on a "The Israelis used to hold the of fingers bas hegun and we

it will cause anxiety and could store up rebellion from those on the left who believe be has gone too far to woo Conserva-tive voters back to Labour. Rejecting the criticism of his left wing, Mr Blair said It was to change the party was to sac-rifice principle or betray histo-ry. "This angers me. It is the kind of thinking that kept us out

of power and allowed some of the mistakes to be made." He told husinessmen at the Anglo-American Chamber of Commerce: "We need a new radical centre in modern politics that can answer the competitive challenge whilst enhancing social stability and cohesion. And today's Labour party, New Labour, is a party of Professor Shall speculated unreasonable human lifespan that Werner's syndrome might and we are talking about the centre as well as the centreand we are talking about

Last night "One Nation" Tory MPs warned him off their ground. "He is prepared to do anything for power," said Tim Rathbooe, the Tory MP for Lewes.

The speech to businessmen was hilled as an attempt to reassure international investors that Britain under a Labour Government would be a safe bet. But it will be seen as a landmark statement of Mr Blair's leadership that the voters at

His key message to the sceptical Tory voters was that a government under his leadership would not impose punitive rates

He said police, school teach-

IN BRIEF

Twelve killed in blaze at airport flower shop

At least 12 people were killed and 50 injured when a fire broke out in a flower shop at Düsseldorf airport yesterday, German police said.

Rescue worker found some of the bodies in the lifts in the arrivals section.

Building society windfall Bristol & West Building Soci-

ety, the UK's 9th-largest, is set to be taken over by Bank of Ireland, in a deal which experts believe could net its 1.4 million members up to £750 in cash or shares. The society's decision is the latest in a stampede by most of the UK's top 10 building societies to abandon Page 16

Rugby rift

England's leading 24 clubs have carried out their threat to withdraw from the Rugby Football Union in protest at the Union's insistence on retaining absolute control of the game. Page 24

Today's weather Dull and cloudy with rain in

Section Two, page 21



TIM CORNWELL Los Angeles

A seven-year-old girl who vowed to become the youngest person to fly across the United States was killed yesterday when the light aircraft she was travelling in crashed in heavy rain.

Jessica Dubroff, a brown-

haired girl from a small town in northern California who wore a cap with the inscription "Women Fly", died with her father and a flying instructor when the Cessna four-seater plunged steeply into a street shortly after take-off from Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Eyewitness Ron Nimmo said: We are not talking about a glancing blow into the ground. It was fairly obvious there would be no survivors."
Jessica completed the first leg of her flight on Wednesday

Asked why she was making the trip, she said: "I believe it

was my father's idea." Jessica the entire way. I'm not going to quit. On arriving in Cheyenne, she said she couldn't wait to take off again, even though she'd only had two hours sleep the night before.

after setting out from Half Moon Bay, near San Francisco.



Jessica Dubroff in the Cessna cockpit

She successfully piloted the plane to Elko, Nevada, and then on to Cheyenne, a town of But Jessica, just four feet two

then added: "I am going to fly No one under 16 can apply

for a pilot's license in the US and Jessica was not legally flying the plane. Her instructor, Joe Reid, should have been able

inches tall, used aluminium extensions to reach the pedals and Mr Reid was not to touch the controls except in an emergency. Her father, Lloyd, sat in

the back seat. In order to qualify for the record, the schedule called for the trio to complete the round trip in a week with Jessica flying for about 40 to 50 hours. They were to arrive in her old home of Falmouth, Massachusetts on Friday. Rachel Carter, aged 9, of California, was named as the youngest pilot to cross the continent in 1994.

## Scientists unlock the key to mortality

actually have been the primor-

dial human standard and that

"normal" people evolved the ex-

tra gene to cquire our present longevity.

The gene appears to slow ageing. "What if we put in an-

TOM WILKIE

A gene that controls ageing has been found by US researchers. raising the possibility that gene therapy or drugs might prolong active human life to 150 years.

By isolating and identifying the gene, researchers hope they may be able to devise treatments that could slow the process of ageing. A team led by Dr Gerard Schellenberg at the Veterans Health Care System, in Seattle, report the gene's discovery in today's issue of the US journal, Science.

They discovered the gene by looking at people with Werner's syndrome - a form of premature ageing — which results from inheriting an abnormal variant of the gene. There are estimated to be up to 1,000 peo-ple with Werner's syndrome in Britain, according to Professor Sydney Shall, an expert on the disease at Sussex University. The average age of death is 45, but some last until their 50s, he



other one?", he asked. "One arteries associated with old age. hundred and fifty years is not an They can develop diabetes in their 30s, cancer, osteoporosis and rheumatoid arthritis. "They look twice as old as they really are," Professor Shall said. Body cells taken from patients with Werner's syndrome have "dramatic and odd" limi-

healthy, vigorous life."

People with Werner's devel-

op normally until about the age

of 10, when they stop growing, and adults seldom exceed 5ft. By

their 30s they have severe ath-

eroscierosis - narrowing of the

tations when cultured in the laboratory. They stop growing some five or six times faster than normal cells. "The positive function of the gene is to keep cells growing for a much longer time," professor Shall said. It appears that the protein produced by the gene has a role

m unzipping the double helix of DNA. The identification of the gene will allow parems to have a prenatal diagnosis where fused to give any figures.
there is a risk to a foetus.

TURN TO PAGE 2

home can trust him in office. of tax on the middle classes.

ers and middle managers were hardly rich, but they all paid tax at the top rate of 40p in the pound. That may have implied that those on modest incomes would not face higher taxes under Labour, but Mr Blair re-



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Amnesty report: Refugee breaks cover to condemn moves to curb legal rights

Meran suffers permanent spinal damage, partial sight in his right eye and a loss of co-ordination in his right leg - the dreadful legacy or eight years of torture and imprisonment in Iran. As he talks he fidgets constantly in his seat to relieve the pain in his back, from which he

A university professor, now

aged 59, he only lives to tell his appalling tale of inhumanity and cruelty, because - unlike thousands of other liberal intellectuals who died at the hands of Iran's Islamic government -his family was able to pay to have him smuggled out of the country. That, and the fact that the Home Office has granted him - a former Amnesty prisoner of

conscience - asylum. Still fearful, he now lives in "secrecy" in England, hence the use of the name Meran, which is not his own. But yesterday he chose to hreach that secrecy in support of Amnesty International's withering report into the Government's clampdown on what it calls "bogus" asylum seekers.

under the new proposals to limit asylum seekers' legal rights and claims to benefit, he may well have failed to get asylum in this country - a country he chose because he spoke only English as well as his native Persian. By necessity, he travelled through another country and on false documents to get here -Meran's argument is that both of which would now count

against him in his claim. He said yesterday: "The Government is seeking to deny prisoners of conscience like myself the change to escape from state terrorism and is relinquishing its

international obligations." He was speaking Amnesty accused the Government of using bogus statistics and arguments to justify the hard line of the

Protesting farmers hit by beef crisis bring Carmarthen to a standstill

Asylum and Immigration Bill. The report accuses Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, of falsely understaring the numher of successful appeals by asylum seekers against Home Office refusals to let them into the country. The Home Office has claimed only 4 per cent of those rejected because they passed through another "safe"

country succeed at appeal, whereas Amnesty says the fig-ure is 40 per cent. The Home Secretary has made false claims with his figures to support a Bill which threatens the basic human rights of those fleeing persecu in the UK, Amnesty International 99-119 Rosebery Avenue,

tion," David Bull, Amnesty's UK director, said yesterday.

| Slamming the Door, the Demolition of the Right to Asylum London ECIR 4RE; £2.99.

#### Four escape as train hits car

A mother and three children escaped unhart yesterday when their car was hit by a train. Kim Turner, 32, Jade Turner, five, Cailum Turner, three and Jessica Bloom, five, of Leconfield, Yorkshire, suffered only cuts and grazes in the collision at an unstaffed level crossing near the village of Beswick.

The driver of the train was in shock after the accident and was replaced by a relief crew. The crossing is just a few miles from another on the same line where nine people were killed in July 1986 when a train struck a van.

#### Car murder denied

A man accused of murdering an elderly motorist claimed the real killer is still on the streets. Clive Jones, 25, of Gipton, Leeds, denied murdering Stevan Popovich, 74, in Chapeltown on Saturday. Leeds magistrates heard Jones' fingerprints and an item of his clothing were found in Mr. Popovich's car. He was remanded in custody until April 18.

£56,500 medal sale Medals and other memorabilia of Major General Orde Wingate, legendary leader of the Chindits in World War 2 Burma, sold for a record £56,500 at Sotheby's. The items included Wingate's triple DSO, Colt service revolver, Royal Artillery captain's khaki doll tunic and a bartered pith helmet worn throughout campaigns in Abyssinia, Palestine and Burma.

#### Royal separation -

Marina Mowatt, 29, daughter of Princess Alexandra and Sir Angus Ogilvy and 28th in line to the throne, has separated from her photographer husband Paul. The couple were married. m 1990 and have two children. A statement issued on their behalf by solicitors blamed the separation on long-standing marital difficulties and said no one else was involved.

#### Baby murdered

Murder squad detectives are investigating the discovery of a baby's body dumped in a dust-bin. The dead child, believed to be aged about six months, was found outside a house in Saltdean, east Sussex. An ambulance was called but the baby was dead when paramedics arrived. A post mortem was conducted at the Royal Sussex

#### County Hospital. Benefit blunder

Tens of thousands of people on income support face hank charges because of a late paymeant 82,000 people have not yet received the benefit, which is paid directly into their accounts. The Benefits Agency said a technical hitch delayed payments for 24 hours. Staff have been alerted and told to consider interim payments.

#### Hill death plunge

A woman died after plunging 500ft down a cliff on Snowdon. She slipped while walking with a friend on Crib Goch, one of the peaks of the 3,560ft mountain. An RAF rescue helicopter flew the middle-aged woman and her companion to Gwynedd Hospital in Bangor, but she was dead on arrival. The alarm had been raised by mobile phone.

#### Robbers escape

Armed police surrounded a multi-storey car park for almost two hours hunting armed robbers who had already escaped. The raiders made off with an unknown amount of money after threatening staff with a handgun at the Royal Bank of Scotland in Colchester, Essex. No shots were fired during the rohbery and no one was hurt.

#### Sealed in

Safety inspectors at a nuclear power station are investigating how their security was breached by a 300th grey seal. Staff at Dungeness B in Kent found the animal in a pool from which water is extracted to cool turbines.

#### Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber

In an article on Page 4 of yesterday's Independent we stated that Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber is farming ostriches. He is not.

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## Price rise helps ease negative equity

NIC CICUTTI

Rising house prices in the first three months of this year helped lift almost 300,000 homeowners out of the negative equity trap, a survey revealed yesterday.

The fall in households trapped, down from about 1.25 million in the final quarter of 1995, is the largest decline for almost three years and the first time since 1992 that the num-ber has fallen below the million

mark. The survey, by Rob Thomas, a banking analyst at the Swiss banking group UBS, came as a separate report by Halifax Building Society yesterday showed house prices rose by 1.7 per cent in the year to March.

Annual house price inflation was boosted by last month's figures, during which prices went up 1.5 per cent. In the 12 months to February, house prices rose by just 0.2 per cent. However, Mr Thomas added

that a further 2.1 million householders are still living in homes worth no more than £5,000 above the price they paid for it. The number of borrowers affected, about three million, are cent rise in prices during 1996 would lift up to 300,000 home-

home, he added. Almost 30 per cent of mortgaged households are in such a position. Of those in negative equity, where the value of a home is less than the mortgage paid on it,

money if they want to buy a new

almost three-quarters are first-Mr Thomas said: "It is a big fall, and is probably just what the Government wants to hear. For the past three years, the

number of those affected has

been marking time. This is the first significant move downwards. There have been false dawns in recent years, which has made commentators understandably cautious about the sustainability of any upturn in

Hopefully, this will prove to be a genuine step in the num-ber of affected households, but the normal spring buying sea-

house prices fail to sustain the rapid recovery seen this year. Mr Thomas's report con-

A Nationwide spokesman claimed that his society's calculation was based on different, but more accurate, estimates of the amount borrowed relative

The society's own figures did not yet show such a significant fall, he added, although a 3 per likely to find themselves losing owners out of the trap.

regative equity. 1989 - 90,000 1990 - 410,000 1991 - 590,000 1992 - 1,170,00 1993 - 1,360,00 1994 - 1,160,000 1995 - 1,130,000 (Source UBS)

son will be crucial He added that the decline in egative equity could tail off If

trasts sharply with a separate one issued earlier this year by Nationwide Building Society, claiming that the number of households in negative equity in 1995 rose to 1.7 million.

to the value of a house.

The housing trap Average number of households affected by

A decision on how to dispose of up to 15,000 culled cows a

week is expected later today as figures reveal that the beef crisis has cost the industry at least £105m in the three weeks since the announcement of a possible link hetween Bovine ongitorm Encephalopalm and Creutzfeldt Jakoh Disease.

PAUL FIELD

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food said last night that the destruction of older cows could begin within a few weeks following the meeting of the beef management commit-

tee in Brussels this morning. Officials are expected to thrash out an agreement on the phased disposal of all dairy cattle over 30 months old once they had reached the end of their useful lives.

will face bankruptcy by the end of the month because they cannot find buyers for their cattle

The Government has faced a major headache establishing how to implement the scheme after Agriculture Minister, Douglas Hogg, proposed the phased destruction of around 4.5 million cattle to the European Union last week in a bid British beef.

Farmers are to be compensated at 85p a kilo plus a possible top-up payment. The cost is expected to reach £3.7m over six years.

Since the proposal was first mooted it has emerged that the nine incinerators licensed to destroy cattle could only cope with 3,000 cows a week. Building a new incinerator costs about £1m and would take a year to be operative. Another option, dismissed by environmentalists, is dumping carcass-

cussing the details of how it will he done. It cannot start overnight hut it will be within a few weeks."

The Welsh town of Carmarthen was brought to a virtual standstill (above) by militant farmers and their supporters yesterday in frustration over the

BSE. More than 1,000 people marched through the town escorted by around 100 vehicles. The farmers believe that without Government help many

Cull to start as cost hits £105m

However, the Government will remain under pressure from Brussels to order the selective slaughter of herds which may have come into contact with with BSE, which farmers hope to avoid. Mr Hogg has until th end of the month to produce his proposals - the earliest date for consideration of removing the beef ban entirely.

A source close to the negotiations disclosed that the Government is pushing for a compromise under which only herds with a high proportion of BSE cases will be culled.

But the decision on the additional selective slaughter policy could not come sooner for an industry counting the costs of the crisis. The Meat and Livestock Commission (MLC) confirmed the domestic beef trade

lost £30m. These sums do not take into account the millions lost bythe knock-on effect. Half of the 15,000 abattoir

workers have been laid off and jobs have gone throughout the industry which employs around 500,000. Among the hardest hit are the 8,500 in haulage. 7,500 the auction husiness and Statistics obtained by the Independent show that despite a

total industry collapse in the first two weeks of the latest BSE scare, beef sales are picking up.
Only 771 prime beef cattle were sold in the week ending 30

March, nearly a 97 per cent drop on the same period last year. Prices had fallen to 98p from 124p per live kilo in 1995. Only 42 cull cows - dairy herd sold for processed meat at the end of their useful life - were sold in the last week of March compared with 8,305 in the same period a year ago, with a drop in value per live kilo from 92p to 67p. Last week no culi cows were sold at

beef cattle sales and price re-covered slightly to 5,124, at an average of 109p per live kilo. Supermarkets yesterday re-ported that beef sales were re-

turning to pre-scare levels. A Tesco spokesman said: "They are beginning to get back to normal. Discounting certainly helped." An MLC spokesman said: "It markets are slowly coming back

to life. Very slowly. But farmers are becoming increasingly frustrated with the handling of the crisis by the Government. They are saddled with the cost, at £30 a week per head, of keeping cattle which should by now have been sold for slaughter.

National Farmers Union policy director. Richard MacDoni, said there was already a hacklog of up to 100,000 cattle waiting to be culled. "There will have to be some kind of queuing system. We have no idea how many farmers could go bust but at the moment there is a lot

Meanwhile, Japanese re-searchers say they have found the role of the cell protein

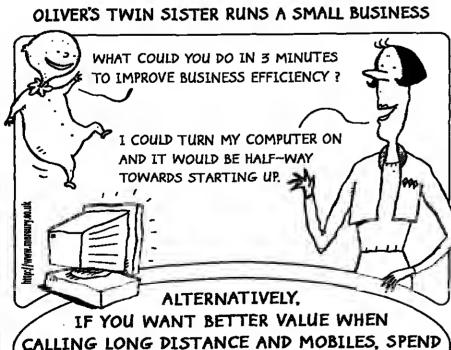
which becomes ahnormally

shaped in BSE and CJD. Ex-

of PrP - which leads to "plaques" in victims' brains -

hut the lack of the normal form which leads to the brain disor-

#### es in open pits on farmland. A Maff spokesman conlost around £75m in the past firmed: "The policy is going three weeks. The export indusahead. The committee is distry, at a complete standstill, has auction for slaughter although



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## MAFF hangs on to calf-test data

**CHARLES ARTHUR** Science Correspondent

Government vets yesterday resisted calls to check one of their experiments which could show whether cows can pass BSE to calves - even though the answer could have serious pub-lic health implications and might help to lift the European ban on beef exports.

The seven-year experiment, heing run by the Central Vetcrinary Laboratory, involves 630 cows, half of them born to mothers showing signs of BSE, or mad cow disease. It is due to end next year but Sheila Gore, of the Medical Research Council's hio-statistics unit, says that public health requirements

BARRIE CLEMENT

Train drivers at one of the

largest privatised rail companies

stand to receive a 20 per cent

pay rise for working two hours

In an offer which could lead

to higher rail fares, the 375 drivers at Great Western would see

their annual earnings rise from

£19,000 a year to £23,000 for

working a 37 hour week.
Aslef, the train drivers'

union, is due to ballot its 375

members at the company over

the offer, which is one of the

first concluded by privatised

Labour Editor

fewer a week.

mean the results should be exposure to BSE-infected ma- BSE might not have come from checked earlier. She says the growing number of cases of the degenerative

hrain disorder Creutzfeldt-Jakoh Disease (CJD) among young adults (see table) means data about whether any of the "spongiform encephalopathies"

- the class of disease to which CJD and BSE belong - can be passed from mother to child should be made available now. One of the victims of CJD died

shortly after giving birth. In the past two years 10 peo-ple aged under 42 have died in Britain from a new strain of CID. Scientists advising the Government have said that their best hypothesis is that

pace-setter in the industry.

Management, which refused

time payments. Sunday working

difficulty in meeting the quota.

Asief has also secured an agree-

ment that there would be no

terials. But there is so far no evsheep but might instead be a dis-ease particular to cattle. idence of an epidemic of CJD. Figures from the National Surveillance Unit show the number of suspected cases so far this year is no higher than in 1994. To date more than 40 of the calves in the experiment have died of BSE. But the Ministry

because they had eaten infect-ed feed while young. MAFF said yesterday that to

periments in mice which could not produce the normal form of of Agriculture, Fisheries and of Agriculture. Fisheries and the protein, known as PrP, Food (MAFF) said this could be showed that it helps keep key hrain cells - known as Purkin-je cells - alive. Without PrP, the mice lost control of limbs. This suggests that it is not build up of the abnormal form

end the experiment early would "reduce its power" and could lead to a "false negative", sug-gesting the disease could not be passed on where in fact it could. MAFF also dismissed suggesthe disease was contracted by tions by US researchers that ders typical of CJD and BSE.

## Train drivers win | Blair: We're the party

FROM PAGE 1

Adams, Aslef general secretary, regards the proposals as a Labour "spin doctors" were anxious to deny reports from journalists on his plane to New York that he had privately said to comment, is ready to increase the hasic rate from £11,564.80 that he would not increase taxa year to £20,000. As a quid pro quo drivers would give up a range of allowances and overes for anyone earning less than £40,000. Mr Blair stressed that no figures would be given by Gordon Brown, the Shadow would attract a rate of time and a quarter rather than the pre-Chancellor, until the election. On Wednesday Mr Brown resent time and three-quarters.
The company is calling for 50 fused to be drawn on whether Labour would introduce a top voluntary redundancies and the rate of tax at carnings of union helieves there will be no

Mr Blair said Labour's priority in Government should be to lower taxes at the bottom end passenger train companies. Lew split shifts or part-time staff. | and reduce the high marginal

of the centre now people. This should not be seen as a desire to punish those

at the top," he said.

John Major derided Mr
Blair's attempt to hury his party's tax and spend image, warning on a constituency visit to Cambridgeshire to that Labour and higher taxes went togeth-er "like strawberries and

Alan Simpson, secretary of the left-wing Campaign Group of Labour MPs, stressed the need to restore a higher tax band for top earners to pay for improved public services. "Utopia is not a land with no taxation," he said.

20% pay rise offer

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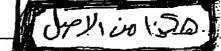
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BACK ISSUES



## FBI joins hunt for Barclays bomber

JASON BENNETTO Crime Correspondent

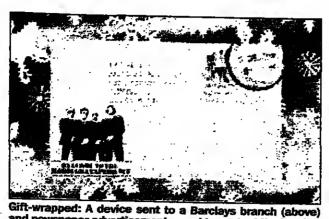
FBI ageots involved in tracking down America's "Unabomber" - a fanatic who carried out an 18-year terror campaign - are helping Scotland Yard in its hunt for the man responsible for posting or planting more than 25 explosive devices against Barclays Bank

The Barclays' bomber - who uses the name Mardi Gra - has demaoded an unlimited amount of money in the extortioo racket which has been carried out for the past 16 months.

His devices are expertly made - some are even handpainted - and the homber has gooe to great lengths oot to leave any clues. The Anti-Terrorist Branch, which is heading the inquiry, fears that the cam-paign, in which at least three devices have exploded, and one person has been slightly injured, could escalate as the bomber becomes increasingly

Unions yesterday stroogly criticised Barclays Bank managers for failing to tell staff that the organisation was the target of a coocerted campaign. Only general security warnings, which all banks issue, were

The bomber is believed to be



members of staff recently made

redundant by the bank. For the past year, members of the FBI have been advising the Anti Terrorist Branch in its attempts to ideotify "Mardi Gra". They have drawn on their experience in investigating the Unabomber", who has carried out a letter-bombing campaign across the country in which three people have been killed and 23 wounded in 16

Theodore "Ted" Kaczynski, who is suspected of being responsible

Mardi Gra first struck in December 1994, when he sent six devices to branches of Barclays in north-west Loodon. Only one went off, hurning the hands of the woman who

His devices are fitted into video boxes and books and feature shotgun cartridges and either a disgruntled customer or one of the thousands of former month, FBI officers arrested wheo opened. Most of the

devices have gone to address-es in London, direct to the bank, their officials, companies connected to them and telephone boxes outside banks. One was sent to Northampton. Almost all the packages have peen posted from London and

the Home Counties. Anti-terrorist officers believe he probably learned how to make the bombs from hooks, and details given in court

The police have attempted to maintain a oews hlackout, but details were released after the bomber wrote to two newspapers. In a letter to the Daily Mirror he warned of a new, more deadly bomb that involves an double-harrelled shotgun.

The banking union yesterday reacted angrily to the news of the bomber. Iain MacLean, assistant general secretary of the UNIFI, said: "I'm absolutely furious about the way Barclays Bank has kept this matter under wraps while there has been a real threat to our members'

safety and even lives," he said. "It's absolutely outrageous that for I5 mooths they have kept this matter a secret.

But Barclays Bank chairman Andrew Buxton said he was following police advice. He added: "We give our staff regular warnings about letter hullets designed to explode bombs and raids and keeping

## Meticulous 'Mardi Gra' sends packages complete with logo

JASON BENNETTO

The bomber targeting Barclays Bank is believed to be someone with a deep rooted grudge who is desperate to he ooticed, but at the same time meticulous and single minded in his new profession - extortion.

Anti-terrorist officers are drawing on the skills of the FBI and forensic psychologists in an attempt to get inside the mind of the man who calls himself

"Mardi Gra". Details emerged yesterday of an obsessive man who has gooe to extraordinary lengths in his 16month campaign against Barclays. He appears to have taken a great pride in his work bombs have been meticulously packaged and he has used distinctive logos and wording.

As in the case of the American "Uoabomber", who waged a war against technology, Car-

Gra's main motive. She said: "With most people who get in-volved in hlackmail it's a ooeoff thing, because they don't want to get caught.

"Where somebody keeps making demands this suggests a more psychological element. would say this person has a deep rooted grudge, a coocern about something that happened in the past.

"He could be a former customer, an ex-employee who was made redundant, or even a husinessman whose business was foreclosed "The case is most unusual be-

cause of the sheer persistence of the individual coocerned. Whatever happened is psychologically very important to this

She said it was clear the bomber wanted publicity and the wish to be noticed was probably more important than ol Sellers, a forensic clinical psy-chologist, believes money is almost certainly not Mardi sulted in more publicity, it any desire to hurt. But Ms Sell-

Clwyd 'abuse victims'

might spur the bomber on to take more extreme action. She added it would be wrong

"He is rational enough to organise an elaborate campaign,'

to assume the bomber was

she said. "This is not someooe who is mentally ill in the conventional sense That ability to carry out care-

ful planning is shown in his demand that Barclays give him credit cards with special PIN numbers that would allow him to withdraw unlimited amounts of money from automatic cash machines. This is a similar ploy to the one devised by Rodney Witchelo, the former policeman who tried to extort £4m from Heinz. Witchelo was jailed for 17 years in 1990 for spiking jars of haby food on supermarket shelves with hleach and razor

blades. The difficulties of handling and tracking down a blackmailer who targets a hig husi-ness rather than an individual were examined last mooth by security consultant Brian Worth, a former Metropolitan Police deputy assistant commissioner.

Writing in Intersec, a security magazine, Mr Worth listed the typical characteristics of prosecuted corporate extortionists. Perpetrators tended to be,

lone men aged 30 to 50, with some husiness acnmen, although often the business had failed. The person is also likely to be someone with no previous convictions and no connection with traditional criminals. They often make a "once and for all" extortion at tempt and start out with oo initial inteotion to harm.

The extortionist may also have experienced a "learning curve" - getting valuable lessons on how to pursue a campaign from previous, aborted extortion attempts, and may well have had some kind of inside information about the target

### Cunard in £15bn fight with Egypt over reef

Cunard officials will meet Egyptian authorities tomorrow in an attempt to sort ont a £15 millioo compensation claim for damage to a coral reef in the

An Egyptian government eovironmental agency claims Cunard's Royal Viking Sun luxury cruise liner caused the damage when it went aground last week. Cunard has been told the

el-Sheikh until the compensation dispute is resolved. Cunard is sending out its own diver to check damage to the coral The ship, which had 560 passengers on board, including 54 Britons, was heading to-

37,845-ton vessel is being held in the Red Sea port of Sharm

wards the Jordanian port of Aqaba when it apparently struck the reef. She lost all power and had to be towed into Sharm el-Sheikh

where Canard is carrying out temporary repairs.

Egypt is claiming that the Royal Viking Sun has damaged 2,000 cubic metres of coral reef and sea life at the Ras Mohamed Nature Reserve at the southern tip of the Sinai penin-"Several vessels are known to

have hit the reef in the last few years and it should be possible to tell just how old the damage is," said Bill Spears, Cunard's public relations director.

The passengers on the stricken vessel flew home at the end of last week. Cunard said that it hoped

to have the Royal Viking Sun back in service in time for its European cruise from France

## March of time stalled by amber light



The bones of a tiny insectivorous mammal, which lived about 25 million years ago, found preserved in amber in the Dominican Republic. The find, reported in yesterday's issue of *Nature*, will cast light on the spread of mammals after the extinction of the dinosaurs about 60 million years ago. Small reptiles have been found before but never mammals

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## seek report publication

ROGER DOBSON

Lawyers who act for four alleged victims of child abuse in north Wales have begun legal proceedings to force the release of a secret report of an investigatioo into abuse in residential homes.

The actioo, by solicitor Gwilym Hughes, was filed ear-lier this week and it is scheduled to be heard by a judge in chambers at Wrexham County Court on 17 May. The move follows the decision of Clwyd County Council, who commissioned the report from three indepeodeot child care experts, oot to publish it.

The council, which ceased to exist at the end of last month af- into events in Clwyd. ter local government reorganisation, has given copies to the Welsh Office for the Secretary of State for Wales, William Hague, to make a decision.

Proposals to extend the M25,

and introduce 12 lanes at the

most congested area of Britain's

husiest motorway were

The £93.8m scheme put for-

ward by the Department of

Transport would create six lanes

in each direction at the busiest

sections of the 121-mile orbital

motorway, which is bombarded by more than 200,000 vehicles

It would include widening the

M25 between junction 12 (the

M3 exit) and junction 14 (the

Heathrow airport exit) from

four lanes to five on either side

REBECCA FOWLER

announced yesterday.

during peak hours.

and his team who carried out the investigation foresaw attempts to stop publication. At one point the report says: "The inteotion appears to be to prevent publication of the report and its disclosure to any individual."

Clwyd made its controversial decision a week before Easter. It also asked the three authors to return their copies of the 300page report. Mr Hague, who is due to return from a trade missioo to North America tomor-row, is coming under increasing pressure to both publish the report and to accept its key recommendation that there should be a full judicial public inquiry

Child care organisations believe that lessons can only be learnt if the report is published.

John Jillings. former director decades. Police took 2,600 state-of social services at Derbyshire, ments and seven men have ments and seven men have been convicted of various offences in the last few years. Mr Hughes said: "We have

filed for disclosure of the report and other documents. The fact that they are anxious not to disclose it makes me more keen to see what is in it. Whether we will be successful remains to be seen. If we are successful we would have access to the report."

Lawyers say that if the action is resisted by the council, the main defence would be one of public interest, hot that is thought unlikely to succeed. Alan Levy, QC, leading child care law specialist, said: "In gen-eral, claims for privilege or public interest immunity by lo-cal or central government can be defeated if a greater public interest can be shown. And the interest can be shown. And the greater public interest will al-

Up to 200 young people suffered abuse in homes over two most always succeed."

Storm over 12-lane M25 plans

move, the Government pro-poses extending the section between junction 14 and 15 to six lanes in each direction. John Watts, the minister for railways and roads, said: "These

ward in the relief of congestion for this very busy motorway." They were condemned by environmentalists and the Labour Party, who expressed concern that the proposals for an American-style super-highway on the M25 marked the end of attempts to find alternative solutions to London's traffic cnsis, including the £2.6bn plans for CrossRail, which would have created a new line linking and, in the most controversial the east and west of London.

plans are an important step for-

Graham Allen, Labour's transport spokesman, said the expansion of the M25 was an outdated response to the traf-fic problem. This £100m motorway madness comes hot on the heels of the death of Cross-Rail. Londoners desperate for

transport will be asking the Government just what kind of priorities does it have?" Mr Allen added: "Congestion on the M25 does need to be tackled, but this scheme will only generate more traffic."

less traffic and better public

Lynn Sloman, assistant director of the environmental Transport 2000, described the proposals as "ut-

## Children 'put at risk by parasite teacher agencies'

Private teacher agencies were Fran Abrams reports condemned as "parasites" by a union yesterday amid accusations that some were failing to check whether their recruits were convicted child abusers.

In one case, a man whose name was on a Government list of people considered unfit to teach was recruited by an agency to work in a primary

The National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers conference in Glasgow heard that pupils were at risk through increasing levels of casual labour.

Up to 40 agencies have been set up in the past few years, many of them operating in London and other large cities. While some check applicants' names against the Government's "List 99" of about 3.000 banned teachers and against police records, others do not, according to the union. Martin Johnson, a secondary

school teacher from Lewisham, London, said that while schools paid £130 for a local authority supply teacher they often paid as little as £100 for an agency teacher, with the recruit receiving only £75 of that sum.

from the Glasgow

conference of the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers

had been shocked to see a teacher at a south London primary school who had left the profession because of serious allegations against bim. The man was on "List 99", but bad re-entered the classroom by signing on with an agency.

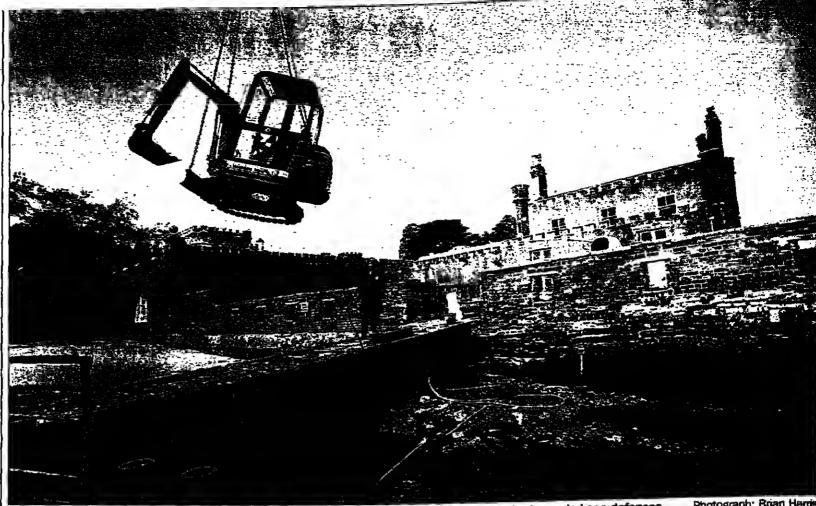
A survey showed that a quarter of bead teachers were not sure whether checks bad heen made on their agency staff, Mr Johnson said. "Some of the agencies are trying to give services and they are trying to give quality. Others are cowboys." Mr Johnson said there were

between 700 and 1,000 agency teachers in London alone, many of them from Australia and New Zealand. Employers were required to make checks on staff, but some agencies said their recruits were self-employed. Agencies were being used to fill long-term posts in order to one school had 13 different science teachers in one year, Mr Johnson claimed His motion to the conference

condemned the agencies as "parasites upon the education service, undermining salary levels and conditions of service and putting pupils at risk", and called for all agency teachers to be subject to checks and receive the same pay and pension benefits as other staff.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the union said: People get round 'List 99' by going to agencies and it is a defect in the system which needs to be put right. Our chief concern is the casualisation of the profession and the way agencies offer lower salaries. ■ National action could be taken over government plans to name incompetent teachers, the union warned last night. Delegates described the new grading system as "facile and

iniquitous". Inspectors could face formal bearings and legal action may be taken on behalf of teachers who have been failed. From this term, lessons will be marked from one to seven and inspectors will report staff who



Vanishing act: Marine engineers raising a digger from the tide on Brownsea Island after repairs to eroded sea defences

Twit links to ch

## Baden-Powell island sinking away

**ROS WYNNE-JONES** 

Brownsea Island, where Lord Baden-Powell pitched his first scout camp and home to one of Britain's most important red squirrel colonies, is disappearing into the sea.

Underwater surveys have shown that the rate of erosion on the island's eastern shore has accelerated to one metre per year, leaving a jetty, quay and slanders' cottages in immedi-

The National Trust, which has owned the nature reserve on the island off Poole, in Dorset, since 1961, is proposing to huild underwater rock armour, consisting of 10,000 tons of boulders, to protect the seabed from the tide, "Brownsea Island fits so tightly into Poole harbour that it is like a cork in a bottle," said a spokeswoman for the trust's Wessex region. The tide rushes past and into Poole har-

bour causing a scouring action

The National Trust has begun an urgent fund-raising appeal because they fear the quay, along with its gatebouse and eight cottages, may not survive another barsh winter.

Engineers say the island. which attracts 10,000 visitors a year, has a weak clay and sand shore which is being washed away by each wave. "Frankly we only need another force 10 gale and anything could happen," said Barry Guest, who

Work to shore up the 146year-old sea wall has begun. The estimated cost of the rock armour is £250,000, some of which the trust will find from emergency funds. Each 1-to-2 ton boulder will cost £30 and £22,000 is needed to transport

them out to sea. The acceleration of erosion has probably been caused by a number of factors. Global warming, increased easterly winds and the deepening of Poole harbour to accommo-

date larger cross-channel ferries may all have played a role. The depletion of reed beds, where the native sparting has all but disappeared because of pollution, may also be a factor as the plant used to protect the sea bed.

Dead bodi

DULT PO

BINE OF

Lord Baden-Powell founded the Scout movement on the wooded 500-acre retreat in 1907. He invited 22 boys from across England to take part in an experimental 10-day expedition to the island which still plays bost to Scout groups . .

## Labour 'to recruit over-50s'

save money, and pupils at

Retired people would he drafted into the classroom and experienced teachers given sabbaticals under a Labour government, the party's education

spokesman said yesterday. But plans announced by David Blunkett for teacher training for the over-50s brought a lukewarm reaction from the profession. Union leaders said the job, a challenging one even for a 25-year-old, could prove too much for an older person.

Mr Blunkett told conference that the party would increase links between schools and industry. People with a lifetime's experience in another profes-

schools, he said. Courses already being run by the Open University could be adapted to train the new recruits.

The teaching profession, which at present has 20,000 new recruits to training courses each year, needs by 2000 to increase the figure to 30,000. Mr Blunkett said that teachers with between 10 and 15 years' service could be given sabbaticals of between one term and a year in order to refresh their skills.

Nigel de Gruchy, the union's general secretary, welcomed Mr Blunkett's proposals for sabhaticals hut was less entbusiastic about plans for older

"Youngsters today are very different from what they were like 20 or 30 years ago. They are far more indisciplined and less respectful of authority. To be a good teacher these days you bave to have a lot of vigour to be able to survive," he said.

James Paice, a junior education minister, said last night that the scheme would prove prohibitively expensive and would entitle 240,000 teachers every year to a year off.

But a spokesman for Mr Blunkett rejected the government figures, saying the scheme would need no new money and would be funded from existing

## Juror urges release of Bridgewater Three

Pressure on Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, to reopen the Carl Bridgewater murder case mounted yesterday when a second juror, who convicted four men of the killing 16 years ago, says she now believes. they are innocent, writes

Lucinda Graham, who was 19 at the time of the trial, came forward after a BBC Rough Justice programme, revealed that a key prosecutor in the case had voiced his concerns that vital fingerprint evidence had not been disclosed at the men's trial.

now back the campaign to free the men. after feeling that she and her fellow jurors had heen wrongly denied the full picture, during the men's trial in 1979.

Tim O'Malley, the jury fore-man, bas expressed his doubts

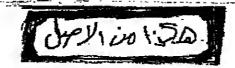
tal forensic evidence and they kept it away from the defence. You feel cheated and you feel deceived by that."

Thirteen-year-old Carl was shot dead when he apparently interrupted burglars as he desclosed at the men's trial. over the verdict, saying: "The Livered newspapers to an iso- was found guilty of manslands."
Yesterday she said she would prosecution knew there was vi- lated Staffordshire farmhouse ter. He died in prison in 1981.

In 1978. However, Michael. Hickey, 33, bis cousin Vincent Hickey, 41, and James Robinson, 61, have always protested. their innocence. They were convicted largely on the en dence of Patrick Molloy, who







## Twins data links genes to chronic arthritis

**NICHOLAS TIMMINS** Public Policy Editor

Osteoarthritis - the commonest cause of joint pain in the elderly and of 50,000 hip and knee replacements a year - may have a significant genetic component, according to research published yesterday.

Between 39 and 65 per cent of the disease is inherited rather than the result of wear and tear, of sporting injuries or other environmental factors such as being overweight, a study involving 250 pairs of identical and

non-identical twins suggests. The discovery offers the prospect of identifying the gene responsible which in turn could lead to drug therapies which might replace many of the tens of thousands of joint replacements undertaken annually in people aged over 45.

The finding was described yesterday as "novel and exciting" by Dr Tim Spector, a consultant rheumatologist at St Thomas's Hospital, London, who said the disease. Wear and ter problem in terms of the pain and suffering it causes".

One in three people eventually suffer some degree of osteoarthritis and one in six suffer significant pain and handicap from a condition which normally appears in the hands before progressing to the main joints. The aim now is to recruit 5,000 pairs of same-sex twins, both non-identical and identi-

cal, to identify the crucial gene.
To date, Dr Spector said, ucts are developed from the raw material they have provided.

the joint disease, caused by the hreakdown of the cartilage which covers bone endings, has been seen as the nuglamorous result of wear and tear and foothall and work injuries. The twins study, however, shows that identical twins - who share all the same genes - are twice as likely to suffer the disease as non-identical twins, who share

only half their genes.

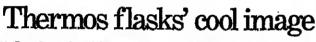
This should have a great impact on this often forgotten dis-ease," he added. Identifying the gene would allow screening while offering the hope in the

longer term of new therapies.

Those with the gene, he said, could be given lifestyle advice - "keep your weight as low as possible, avoid marathon running, avoid orthopaedic sur-geons doing anything to your cartilage, avoid too much football, but keep fit and keep your muscles strong". And in the longer run new drugs might be produced which would prevent the progressive development

Wear and tear still remained an important factor, Dr Spec-tor said, as did obesity, and both might prove of more importance in those already

predisposed to the disease. Gemini Research, a subsidiary of a company based in the British Virgin Islands, has bought the commercial rights to the twins' database. The company rather than donors will reap financial rewards if prod-



A London advertising agency has taken on one of the toughest challenges in marketing making Thermos flasks cool.

vater Th

Trevor Beattie, creative director of TBWA and the man behind the award-winning Won-derbra advertisements, has been given the job of helping create a hip new image for the drink containers, often viewed as the in Britain and France.

packed-lunch companion of anorak-clad trainspotters and elderly couples at the seaside.

The £500,000 campaign, under the catchline "Thermos -The Flask Just Got Hot", will run for two weeks and will be initially test-launched at sites in railway stations, motorway service areas and shopping centres

### Dead bodies delay luxury flats plan

**ROS WYNNE-JONES** 

Plans to build a health club and houry apartments in north London have been held up by the discovery that more than 12,000 bodies lie below the site.

Developers are having the bodies exhumed and carried to Trent Park, Middlesex, where

they will be reburied The site in Islington, north London, within the main shopping area, was once a Victorian graveyard. After the Closure of Burial Grounds Act in 1852 a timber yard was built over the thousands of graves and they

were forgotten. The site, off Upper Street, is now heing redeveloped by Groveworld Ltd, which discovered the bodies after running tests in the area. Historical records confirmed the timberyard was once a Victorian cemetery and that the last bodies were buried in 1852.

and cemeteries at Islington council, said the bodies would be treated with reverence. "The development company have called in specialists to exhume the bodies," he said. The specialist company, Necropolis Co, said it was usual practice for bodies to be lifted out one by one and placed in containers. These containers would then be transported to the new site.

David Jenkins, of Necropolis, said: "The work we are doing in Islington is far less unusual than people might think. Mass exhumation is going on all year round, all the time." However, some nearby residents were concerned about diseases like smallpox which might have finished off the Victorians.

Dorothy Jones, who lives near the old entrance to the timber yard, said: "They died of horrible diseases in those days. They might be bringing them up

Peter Bonsal, head of parks DAILY POEM

The Scholars

By Rebecca Yearling

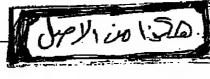
Old men bend over older books, And put old eyes to further strain. Old hands examine fevered looks, Producing notes from lovers' pain. The scholars grope where poets ran, Translating love with pedants' care. The lines no longer rhyme or scan, The ardour faded into air.

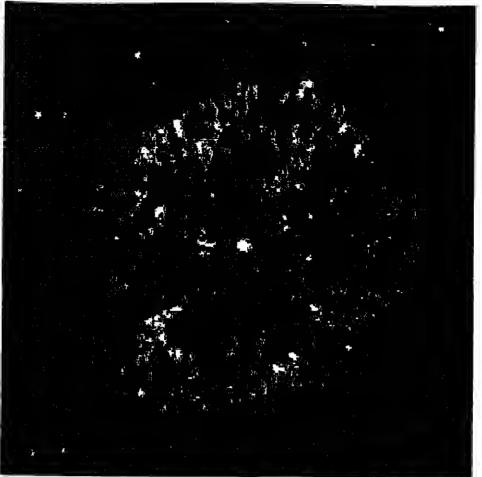
All serious, correct and staid; All dressed in grey; all faces lined;
All stained with ink; all cuffs are frayed;
All youthful life left far behind.

The lines imprison dream and thought, Love's passions turned to dusty grey. Unwilling pupils stay untaught. The words have nothing more to say.

Rebecca Yearling is 17 and comes from Glasgow. This poem, written when she was 15, brings to a close a week of some of the winning entries of the 1995 WH Smith Young Writers' Countries of the 1995 WH Smith Young White petition, published in book form as Electric Full Stops (Macmillan Children's Books, £4.99).

The competition is open to children in three age categories: 8 years and under; 9 to 12; and 12 to 16. Anyone interested in entering the 1997 Competition, to be launched this October, should write to WH Smith Young Writers' Competition, Community Affairs, WH Smith Group plc, Strand House, Holbein Place, London SW1W 8NR.





Starburst: The 'Firework Nebula' in the constellation Perseus shooting light and X-rays

## Strange dance begins as firework stars blast off

"Firework Nebula", pictured here, have begun shooting out light and X-rays after a fouryear silence - a fact only picked up by an international team of amateur astronomers who keep

in touch via the Internet. Known officially as GK-Per, the nebula lies in the constellation Perseus, about 1,500 light years from Earth. At its centre are two stars - one hot and gassy, and another which is now a dense "white dwarf", about as heavy as our Sun but only as large as the Earth. It "went nova" in 1901, leading to the firework effect visible here as pieces of the star's outer shell were thrown off by a cata-clysmic explosion within it.

Now, in part of a four-year cycle, gas is being sucked from the larger star towards the white dwarf "like water running down a plughole", said Julian Osborne, a research scientist at the University of Leicester. As the gas approaches the dwarf, it giving nff light, until finally a

have found a nebula in explosive mood, writes Charles Arthur

critical mass surrounding the star is dragged downwards -where it crashes into the hot sur-face at 5.4 million in ph, accelerating so rapidly that it gives Dr Osborne was contacted in

February by the amateur group, numbering about 30 interna-tionally, who regularly monitor the nebula and other variable stars. "It's not possible to predict when it will happen, so we rely on amateurs to tell us and to register its changes in bright-ness," he said yesterday. "They put the information on the Internet and have a daily mailing list so they can tell the profes-

Once alerted, he was able to get an orbiting X-ray satellite to begin observing the starburst, three months. But so far nobody

Amateur astronomers can predict how long the pair of stars will continue their strange dance. The white dwarf will gain mass, meaning that it will be able to suck gas more easily, but even so there is probably sufficient material for the cycle to

last many millions of years. The largest computer simulations of the development of our universe from its early infancy to its current state have just been carried out by an international consortium of astronomers (the Virgo Consortium) based at Durham

University, writes Tom Wilkie. The researchers demonstrated that galaxies as we see them today formed by the merging of protogalactic frag-ments that grew, over billions nf years, out nf tiny ripples in the energy from the fireball after the Big Bang. In the computer sim-ulation, the properties of the ripples are fed into a large supercomputer as the initial conditions'. A computer program that simulates the growth of these ripples is then execut-

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#### news

Worrying analysis: Psychologists told of crisis for universities and computer stress bothering the young

## Cheats and bad marking cause degrees of doubt

LIZ HUNT Health Editor

A degree from a British university could soon be worthless in the eyes of employers because of widespread discrepancies in marking between different institutions and cheating by undergraduates, a leading educational psychologist warned yesterday.

Professor Stepben Newstead, president of the British Psychological Society, is calling for a national examination at university level, and a radical overhaul of the student assessment system to offset the "wor-

rying variations" in marking. He cited the example of two experienced markers differing by 70 per cent in the marks they gave a history script. In another study, Professor Newstead gave six essays to 14 experienced examiners in psychology and found "dramatic" variations.

Professor Newstead, Professor of Psychology at Plymouth University, said that in the US no one now trusts the degrees awarded by individual universities. They rely instead on a national exam, the Graduate Record Examination, taken by graduates. "We are in danger of in the awarding of good degrees allowed fell that happening here unless we — an upper second or higher — their work.

take steps to address it now ... The system is in danger of being undermined," be said.

Speaking on the opening day of the BPS annual conference in Brighton, Professor Newstead said that examination marking is unreliable: standards of assessment are inconsistent over time, institution, and subject; markers are biased, and it is too easy for students to cheat. The assumption that a First

Class honours degree means the same as it did 20 or 30 years ago is open to question, he added. The number of firsts awarded nationally bas increased from 6 to 10 per cent since 1980, while the average degree is now upper second, not a lower second as it was just a few years ago. This is at a time when almost one-third of 18-year-olds enter bigber education compared with just 5 per cent in the 1970s

"It is difficult to believe that the proportion of these modernday students who merit a good degree is so much higher than the proportion of their much more highly selected predecessors," Professor Newstead said.

He pointed to wide variations

between disciplines.A student had a 50 per cent chance of getting a first or upper second in philosophy and history, but only 30 per cent in accountancy. Just over 40 per cent of maths and education students received good degrees com-pared to 60 per cent in engineering and technology.

Marker bias is also a key factor, based on an examiner's knowledge and opinion of the student with a tendency to make sure that their own students do better than those of other lecturers. They may be marked higher, or helped before the exam with hints about questions or revision classes on exam-related topics.

There was also evidence of discrimination against women students who tended to be marked down compared to male colleagues who get twice as many firsts.

Cheating in exams was also disturbingly high", Professor Newstead claimed

A study of almost 1,000 students found that more than half used material from another source without acknowledgement, nearly half had invented data, and a similar number allowed fellow students to copy

## Hi-tech anxiety that bites the computer generation

LIZ HUNT

Young people who have grown up with computers suffer more anxiety when using them than older, less experienced users, who have had new technology forced upon them in the workplace, according to new

Nicholas Bozionelos, a lecturer in psychology at Strathclyde University, said the findings were "surprising" and confound the expected view that young people introduced to computers at school or the home are undaunted by them and easily acquire the basic

Mr Bozionelos studied a group of 50 18- to 23-year-olds in higher education who used computers for their course work and a group of 170 older students aged 30 to 43 at a

business management school. More than one-third of the younger group showed computer anxiety - avoidance be-

experiment with computers and negative remarks - compared with one in five of the older group. Women were twice as likely to experience computer anxiety in the older group than

Around 3 per cent of the younger group suffered such acute auxiety that it could be classed as computer phobia, a condition widely recognised in the US, and as distressing and disabling as a fear of spiders. Symptoms include nausea and dizziness when confronted with a computer. In its extreme form computer phobia is estimated to cost US industry billions of dol-lars in lost productivity, and even sabotage of hardware by

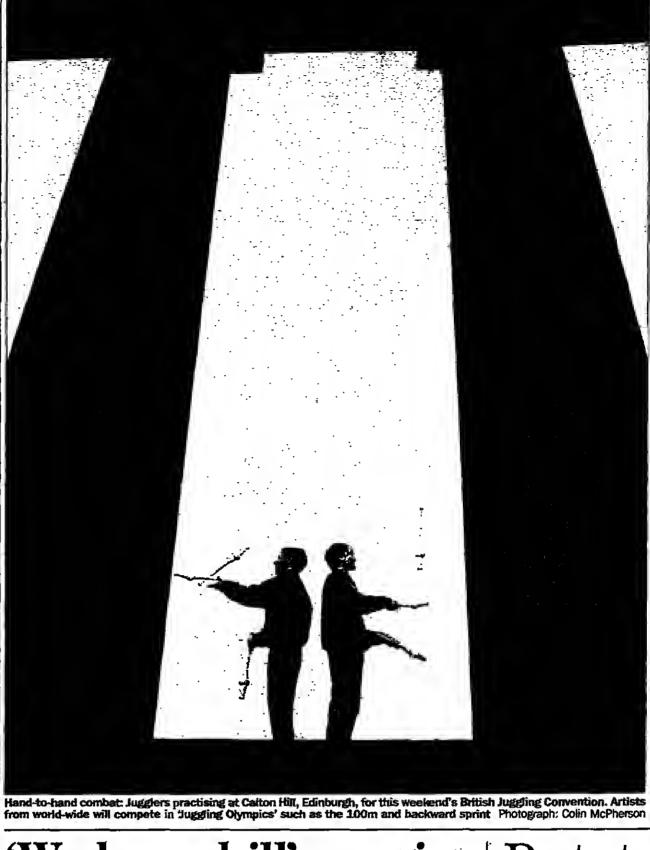
Mr Bozionelos told the BPS conference in Brighton yesterday that young people were aware that their future job prospects may depend on mastery of the computer, and this was an added source of stress.

haviour, wariness and failure to "New computer applications are arriving in the marketplace at an increasing rate. They see everything changing and they feel they are not able to keep up with the change.
"People in their thirties and

forties know they may have to keep up with one or two applications in their work, and are comfortable with this," Mr Bozionelos said.

He said computer anxiety was linked with lack of confidence in mathematics ability. and better teaching of this subject would help. Earlier introductions to computers at school and adult courses which explain how computers function were more valuable than short, introductory packages, lasting one or two days, he said.

Companies should be more careful when introducing computers and ensure they address the human issues. They usually decide the system ... on technical issues, and then expect their employees to work with it."



#### Two men arrested over contract killing

JASON BENNETTO Crime Correspondent

Police hunting the killers of an accountant shot dead by booded gunmen at his home have arrested two men after an international inquiry that has lasted four years.

David Wilson, 47, was mur-dered while his family were held hostage at their home at Withnell, near Chorley, Lancashire in 1992.

The two suspects were arrested in the London area late

on Wednesday night Michael Austin, 39, an American millionaire fraudster, was jailed for life last February for ordering the murder of Mr Wilson, who was shot twice in the head. He was killed after becoming entangled in a £26.5m international cigarette and insurance fraud, masterminded by Austin.

Austin was extradited from New York to face trial last February. The court was told he amassed about £60m from his criminal career. He had at least 50 alíases and even close associates did not know his real name. Stephen Schepke, 46, an arms dealer from Sideup, Kent, was given a life sentence in October 1993 for aiding and abetting the murder. Other people bave also been convicted.

Following the convictions the police revealed they had found a finger print on sticky tape left at the murder scene. The arrests on Wednesday are understood to have been connected to the prints.

The two men were yesterday brought back to Lancashire for questioning after being arrested by a team of Lancashire

Superintendent Bob Denmark, who has headed a worldwide hunt for the killers, said: I do believe that our four-year hunt for the gunmen is drawing

## 'Work can kill' warning Post staff won't

**GLENDA COOPER** 

Overwork can kill and the Government should take action to reduce the working week, according to the British Medical

Journal. In an editorial it says that the Government should intervene to prevent health and safety hazards, including overwork, and employers should be responsible for preventing work overload and stress.

In Japan there is a recognised syndrome of "death by overwork" where the family of a man who killed himself after working for 17 months without a day off bas recently won compensation from his employer.

The UK has so far resisted a European Union proposal that countries since the Industrial Stoop to conquer limiting the working week to 48 hours should be regarded as a health and safety issue.

But several studies seem to prove that working too hard can damage your health. A Danisb study of 2,465 bus drivers over seven years found that workload as measured by the intensity of traffic on the drivers' routes was the factor most strongly associated with death or admission to hospital with a heart attack.

The incidence of death and hospitalisation in those with higher workloads was more than twice that in the group with

low workloads. "Of course there have been

Revolution but sometimes of ical overwork has been replaced by psychological overload, 'said Susan Michie and Anne Cockcroft, researchers at the Royal Free Hospital and School of

Medicine Occupational Health and Safety Unit in London. "And as unemployment has in-creased over the past decade, those in work have experienced increased workload, work pressure and hours of work." They called on the Govern-

and strategies to increase employment, reduce the working week and to prevent health and safety hazards at work.

den will be in place by Monday when the school's 700 children return from the Easter break,

and it should be completed

ment to introduce legislation

epidemic of back strain. The worsening problem has been caused by a national mania for home improvement that has seen the spread of

floor-level letter boxes. Now the aggrieved postmen say they will no longer stand, or rather, crouch for it. So fed up are they of injuries caused by the hazardous movement of bend-ing down to ground level while carrying heavy mail bags that the Irisb Republic's Communications Workers' Union is now

Chris Hudson, a CWU official, himself an ex-postman, said: "It's not a laughing matter. I can remember the problems with my back and the sheer difficulty of bending down, getting mail into a letter-box which was at the bottom of a door, while trying to retain the hag on your back.

some postal workers to deliver mail to site offices only on new

**ALAN MURDOCH** 

Ireland's postmen and women have declared that they will no longer how to ungrateful customers. They are threatening to stop delivering to lowdown letter boxes, blaming an

porches and glass doors with

threatening a boycott of im-possibly low letter boxes.

Branch officials have told

estates where builders had told the union to "get lost". The union wants parity with

European counterparts. In the Netherlands the authorities have set a minimum height for letter boxes and the CWU is pressing the Department of the Environment to legislate for this in building regulations. A 1992 survey by the Irish

Business and Employers Confederation (IBEC) of 7,600 work injuries leading to claims against management found that 13 per cent involved back strain. A 1987-89 study of reportable accidents at work showed between 22 and 27 per cent annually involved back injuries.

Mr Hudson said members were not introducing an immediate ban, but locally the union and the postal service have urged builders to set letter boxes at hip height "We don't seem to be getting much sympathy. Some builders and local authorities seem to think it's a joke."

He added that if local authorities failed to accept their responsibilities "h will get to the situation where we are compelled by our members to take

#### Dunblane school gym reduced to rubble the final stages of the £30,000 the low pile of rubble was once operation to tear down the a school building was a blue wall, cy, bebind wire-mesh harriers the events, and enables us to some supplied by the nearby look to the future to build upon Gleneagles botel. The Dunblane primary school gym where Thomas Hamilton operation to tear down the Some of this temporary gar-

massacred 16 children and their teacher was demolished yesterday. No more than a pile of rub-

ble remains on the spot where Hamilton carried out his slaughter on 13 March, before killing himself with his own

A group of journalists was allowed into the school to witness

1960s building and replace it with a temporary garden.

been feeding a sbuttle fleet of trucks which ship the rubble away to an undisclosed landfill

free by a local contractor. The only remaining sign that

with five radiators now incongruously exposed to the A mechanical digger has

The £10,000 cost of the demolition itself was provided

elements. Once it was an inside wall of the gym, but now it forms the gable end of the school assembly block which

abutted the demolished building. This will be turned into an outside wall, decorated to match the rest of the school. The demolition operation

and with police standing guard at the school entrances. But two bereaved families had turned up briefly to watch

the demolition in progress. Mike Robbins, chairman of the school board, said yesterday: "The removal of the gym is a significant step.

"It allows the parents of Dunblane to draw a line under

what's happening here today."
He went on: "It takes away that focal point and allows the teachers in particular to think ahead and to plan for the kids coming back on Monday after

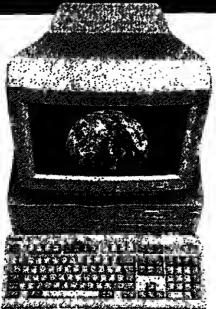
When the site bas been cleared a bed of fine golden gravel will be put down. This will be dotted with tubs of flowers,

later in the week by men working outside school hours. A memorial garden will be created on the site and a new gym will be crected elsewhere within the school complex.

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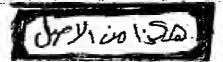




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Two men arrested orer contract killing



IN 1092 William Rufus, angered that Carlisle was proclaimed part of A Scotland, went north, drove the Scots out and ordered the building of a stronghold in the borderlands. Thus Carlisle Castle was constructed just half a mile outside the city. And ever since it has been the scene of numerous battles with different factions fighting for ownership. It was besieged by parliamentarians in the Civil War, then by Bonnie Prince Charlie during the Jacobite Rising. In order to repel such attacks, the castle defences have been extensively remodelled over the centuries. Perhaps the most notable 'quest' at Carlisle Castle was Mary Queen of Scott, a prisoner there back in 1568. You can see Queen Mary's Tower and take the very route she took during her daily walks around the grounds.

THIS year marks the 250th anniversary of the imprisonment of Jacobites inside Carlisle Castle following the 1745 Rising. Led by Bonnic Prince Charlie, they succeeded in taking Carlisle Castle before marching southwards to claim the throne for Charlie's father, James Stuart. An exhibition within the eastle tells the dramane story of the Jacobites' movements. How they returned north in defeat with the Duke of Cumberland's men hot on their heels. How they were captured and



imprisoned, many of them later to be hanged, drawn and quartered on the nearby Gallows Hell. Io a dungeon, you will see the famous Licking Stones. A permanently moist wall which provided a little water for the Jacobites in this overcrowded prison

Located in the small village of Belsay, 14 miles north-west of Newcastle, Belsay Hall consists of a well-preserved fourteenthcentury castle, the ruins of a seventeenth-century mansion and one of the most important neo-classical houses in Britain. But the real jewels in the crown are the 30 acres of magnificent formal gardens, exotic quarry gardens and woodland that surround the buildings. A stroll through the grounds ar Belsay



reveals sycamore, oak and ash trees, the Magnolia Terrace, the Rhododendron Garden, the lovely Meadow Garden. Much of what you see there reflects the eccentric character of Sir Charles Moock. He returned from his 19-month European honeymooo, 1804-1806, full of ideas to build a new bome at Belsay in beautiful neo-Greek style. And to have it set in an equally beautiful landscape.



10 celebrate the 1996 Year of ▲ Visual Arts, Belsay Hall will come alive again from 4th May until 26th October. The 'Living at Beliay' exhibition will feature the work of selected craftsmakers and artists who'll be refurbishing the entrance and the three main reception rooms. It's a novel idea which will see the normally bare rooms equipped with magnificent furniture, fine ceramics, glassware and wall haogings. A rare chance to see contemporary artistry in an historical setting.

## WHEN

YOU BUILD A CASTLE FOR A KING WHO'S RENOWNED FOR CHOPPING PEOPLE'S HEADS OFF, YOU BUILD A REALLY NICE CASTLE



Majesty to be 'small and snug'. However, to humble subjects such as you and I, it is anything bur. Oshorne, on the Isle of Wight, served as a peaceful seaside retreat where Queen Victoria and Prince Albert could escape the strict confines of ceremony. And a magnificent retreat it is too. Albert's passion for the Italian Renaissance is elearly evident, what with the Italianate terrace, rhe Andromeda fountain and the cement copies of the fine Medici Lions from the Loggia de' Lanzi, Florence. Inside you will see a classical Roman statue, the Marine Venus, a lovely fresco painting by William Dyce and lots of extravagant grotesque decoration. In the Durbar Room there's a change of country, this state banqueting hall having been designed in the Iodian style. Other rooms worth visiting are rhe Royal Apartments, the Billiards Room and the Nursery Suite. And the perfect way to finish your day at Osborne House is to take a Victorian horse and carriage ride from the main building to the delightful Swiss Cottage, a present from the Queen to her children in 1854.

WHEN Osborne House was completed in

1851 to provide a country residence for

Queen Victoria, it was considered by Her



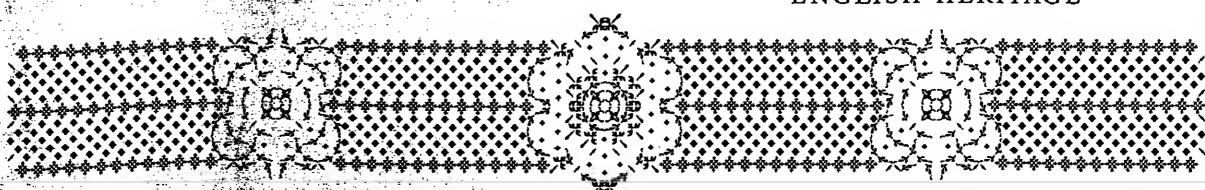
HENRY VIII aside, many other royals have spent time at WALMER CASTLE. Amongst them Queen Victoria and the current Lord Warden, HRH the Queen Mother. Indeed, this delightful residence, just a mile from Deal in Kent, boasts an extremely impressive list of distinguished visitors. Like William Pitt the Younger, who was Lord Warden until his death in 1806. He would try and visit whenever his official duties would allow. A later Lord Warden, the Duke of Wellington, was equally taken with his 'charming marine residence'. His room is arranged just as it was during his stay, its plain, modest furnishings bearing

preference for unsophisticated surroundings. You can see the very armchair where he died in 1852, his campaignbed which still retains its original horsehair mattress and, in the WELLINGTON MUSEUM just along the corridor, the boots worn by the celebrated British war hero.

testimony to the Iron Duke's

URABILITY, not beauty, was the main requirement in the construction of Walmer Castle. However, the architects, not wishing to take any chances with the notoriously hard to please Henry VIII, wisely decided to address both issues. One of a chain of coastal artillery forts, Walmer was built to thwart any invasions by Spain or France. This was a real possibility as Henry's split with the Roman Catholic Church and destruction of many monasteries had infuriated the papacy. The castle differed from earlier mediæval defences in that it had no high walls or lofty towers. In fact, so attractive was Walmer that only minor modifications were needed to make it the comfortable residence it is today. For more information on English Heritage and our role in preserving the nation's significant buildings please call 0171 973 3434 or visit any one of our 400 sites. It's yours. Why not visit it.

ENGLISH HERITAGE



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## CANDARY ING GO GREEN?

## Why Austria is a growing force

**NICHOLAS SCHOON** Environment Correspondent

Britain, with one of the smallest perceotages of land under Organic productioo in the European Union, is suddenly interested in 'green' farming methods following the BSE crisis while other member states have seeo almost explosive

growth in this sector. Generous taxpayer subsidies, coocerned consumers and the Alps bave made Austria the developed world's leading organic farming oation. Just over 11 per ceot of its farmland receives no chemical fertilisers

Śweden trails in secood place, with 3.3 per ceot of its farm land giveo over to organic production. Germany is third with just under two per ceot.

10 1990, the Austrian Gov-

ernmeot offered farmers new subsidies - for each bectare farmed according to strict organic and animal-welfare principles they would receive a

The country's agriculture was

are thousands of small sheep and cattle farms on Alpine pastures where the grass receives

little artificial fertiliser.
The third strand in this environmental success story is the co-operation between organic farmers' associations and retailers which led to several main supermarket chains heav-

ily backing organic produce.
Simone Lughofer, agricultural campaigner in Austria
with the Worldwide Fund for Nature, said 30 per cent of all sales of fresh produce in one chain falls into the organic category. It costs, oo average, 10 to 15 per cent more than its intensively produced counterpart - in Britain this organic premi-

um is at least 20 per cent. The produce includes oot just vegetables, but cheese, milk, ocodles and bread. There is a World Wildlife Fuodendorsed "Panda" bread which earns mooey for the charity.

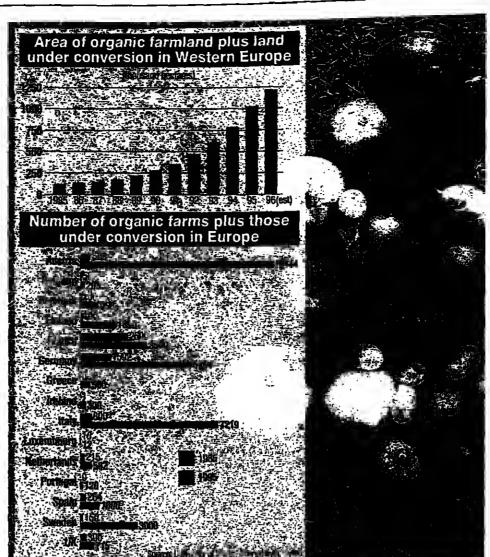
"Getting it into the supermarkets was the real breakthrough because the average consumer is a little lazy - they don't want to have to visit a spewell suited to the switch. There cial organic shop," said Frau

Lughofer, "Now it has become kind of fashionable." The subsidies range from 3,000 Schillings (£188) per hectare for organic grassland to 10,000 Schillings (£625) for pines chillings (£625) for vines.

The subsidies started before Austria joined the European Union and have continued since Common Agricultural Policy regulations allow them, but only as part of a "agri-environ-meot" package subject to fi-nancial limits.

Swedeo's farmers also pride themselves on being environ-meot and animal welfarefriendly. The change in direction away from the most intensive methods, fostered by a mix of voluntary agreements and Government policies, began in 1953 when a salmonella epidemic killed 100 people. One farm union chose television advertising to explain its stance oo environmeotal issues.

Britain only offers subsidies for the process of converting from intensive to organic production. But the optake has been disappointing and only 0.3 per cent of agricultural land is



Organic growth: How other countries face the challenge

## Poisoned land creates demand for 'clean' food

JOHN CARLIN Washington

The appetite for organically farmed food is booming in the United States, so much so that demand may soon exceed supply. The Trends Research Institute has identified what it calls "a clean-food diet" as one of the top 10 trends of 1996.

It's a brand new phenomenon, a major treod now hitting the mainstream," said Gerald Celente, executive director of the institute. "We identified it as such because so-called health foods that were once relegated to a niche market, consumed only by 'health food nuts', have started appearing for the first time during 1995 in the aisles of

the mainstream supermarkets."
Figures released by the Food
Marketing Institute show that
today 42 per cent of mainstream supermarkets carry or stream supermarkets carry or-ganic produce, and 25 per cent of shoppers are oow huying organic food at least once a week. A business opportunity has clearly emerged but, in the view of Mr Celente, "demand will outstrip supply because so much of the land has been poisoned and because the major-ity of the meat is factory-raised be it pork, chicken or beef".

"Mad cow has had a strong impact bere in the US." Mr Celente said. "It's had a strong subliminal effect, reinforcing what we already intuitively believe, raising public consciousness still further about the safety of what we eat, and accelerating the trend towards a clean-food diet." The government's Centre for Disease Control and Prevention reported that in 1994 some 7 and 9,100 died from food poisoning. But it is not only the imperative to live more bealthily and longer that explains the increased demand for organic produce. Other factors include the emergence of a new generation reared in the doctrines of environmental awareness and a spreading clamour for fresher and better-tasting food. The figures show that organic food sales in the US in 1995 hit \$7.6bm

(£5bn), up 20 per cent from

1994. These sales were 22 per

cent up on 1993. Americans spend \$400bn on food annually

Fear

of nev

blood

S-Unit B SIRES

but Mr Celente forecasts that by 2010 organic food will account for 20 per cent of sales. The treod is reflected most eloquently in the burgeoning number of health-food supermarkets. In 1991 there were 195.

Now there are more than 700. There are 7,000 governmentcertified organic farms and dozens of sites have emerged on the Internet providing opportunities to huy produce direct from organic farmers.

The variety of organic foods on offer has been growing expoocotially. The list iocludes soups, pizzas, baby foods, soft drinks and even pet food. More than 60 per cent of regular organic food shoppers have a college degree; 73 per ceot are under 45; and the average mcome of health food devotees is \$36,000, \$5,000 above the national average. "For those who have the means and hear the message, a clean-food diet will become a new-millennium status symbol," Mr Celente

## Little but scorn for indulgence of middle class

MARY DEJEVSKY

Freoch people have two main responses when asked about "green" farming. The first is to say scornfully that all French farmiog is "green" because
France, unlike Britain or the be deceptive. It is said, for in-US, has mostly oot gone in for "intensive" or "industrial" farming. The secood is to dismiss it as little more than a fashionable hobby for middle-class people

with nothing better to do. "Green farming" neverthe-less has a following in France, though it accounts for a very small proportion of the total. The biggest farmers' union, the FNSEA, said that between 1 and 2 per ceot of farmers might practise some aspects of green" farming, but that very few used no chemical pesticides at all. Agriculture ministry statistics give the proportion of farmers meeting the strict EU criteria for "green" farming as

only three in 1.000 farmers. This, however, is still quite a large area of land - roughly equivalent to the surface area of orchards producing eating apples. And while the oumber of farmers registered as practising "green" farming has remained almost static since 1990, at around 3,700 (although there was a dip down to 2,600 in the early Nineties), the area of land farmed ecologically has increased by 10 per cent to 60,000 bectares. There is also a tenENNEE .

highly specialised, whether in particular sorts of livestock farming, market-gardening or viticulture.

stance, that some "green" farmers choose not to register as such, some because they do not meet all the criteria, some because they regard the 3,000franc annual registration fee as too expensive and the bureaucracy burdensome.

For all the popular scorn meted out to the idea of "l'agriculture hiologique", there is a proveo demand for "green" agricultural products in France, and it was growing well before the problem of British beef emerged. Consumptioo increased by 5 per ceot between 1993 and 1994, and continues to rise. The Paris area has a dozen 'green" markets, compared with only three, five years ago. while regular markets all over France often include at least one "bio" stall and many large supermarket chains offer "eco-

ogically" produced vegetables. The problem is that productioo does oot match demand and the wholesale oetwork is poorly developed. The most optimistic estimates suggest that between 2 and 3 per cent of fruit, vegetables and cereals in France could be biologically produced by the year 2000, as dency for "green" farmers to be against 1 per cent today.

### A luxury ensured by ducks in the paddies

Organic farming is well-estab-lished in Japan, a nation ob-sessed with food purity. Almost every supermarket has a section devoted to organically-pro-duced vegetables, rice, fruit and poultry, which cost roughly 20 per cent more than conven-tional fare, writes Raymond

Since Japanese food prices are already excruciatingly steep by Western standards, thanks to leavy subsidies to farmers and high import barriers, organic produce might seem like a luxury. But Japanese consumers are inured to spending a high-er proportion of their incomes on food than those in other countries, and organic farming has a high approval rate among people living in large cities - 93 per cent, according to one poll.

Costs have been kept down,

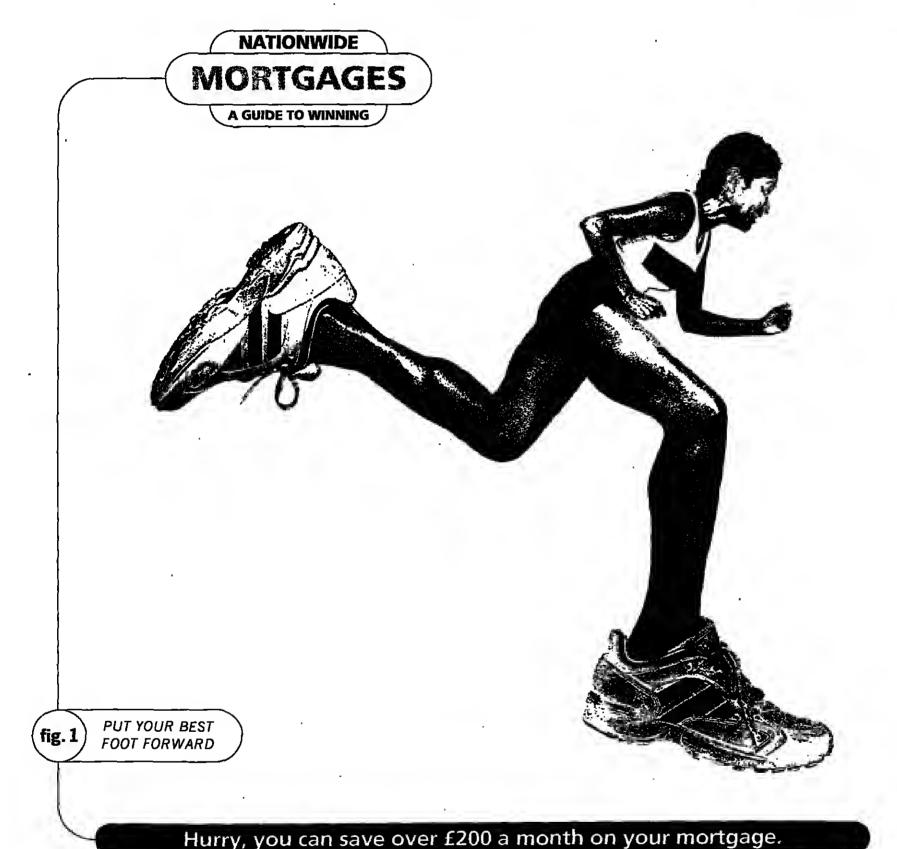
has a sophisticated system of co-operatives, known as san tyoku, in which city-dwellers band together to huy direct from farmers, who pool and deliver their produce. There are more than 600 such co-ops, the largest of which has 150,000 members. "It is oot just the safety of the food that consumers appreciate, but also the taste," said one official.
About 10 per cent of Japan's

switch to organic methods, by

direct contact between con-

sumers and producers. Japan

farming villages have gone over to organic production. Some rice farmers use ducks instead of pesticides to keep down weeds in their paddy fields, with the result that the rice, the ducks and their eggs can all be and farmers encouraged to labelled organic



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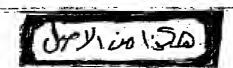
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## Peres gambles on air strikes at Hizbollah

PATRICK COCKBURN Jerusalem

The Israeli government delayed air strikes against Hizbollah, the Lebanese guer-rilla movement, for so long because it has more to lose than gain by escalating the war in Lebanon. By yesterday morning it could wait no longer.

With an election due on 29 May, Shimon Peres, the prime minister, could not afford to look weak. His election slogan is: "Israel is strong with Peres." Pressure to do something

against Hizbollah had heen

day guerrillas fired seven Katyusha rockets into northern Galilee, injuring 36 people and damaging 200 homes in Kiryat Shmona, close to the Lebanese border. Mr Peres was advised not to visit the town for fear of hostile demonstrations.

The Israeli army offered the government three options: mass air attacks, a mixture of air and ground attacks, or an attack on targets in Beirut. Mr Peres appears to have opted for the first and third options. By launching the first air attack on Beirut since the 1982-84 Israeli invasion of Lebanon, he hopes to building up in Israel during convince the Israeli electorate the Passover holiday. On Tues-

Jerusalem were yesterday sounding bellicose. Ori Orr. the defence minister, said: Beirut itself must understand

that it cannot be quiet there and less quiet in Kiryat Shmona." Major General Amiram Levine, in command of Israeli forces in Lebanon, said: "Residents in south Lebanon who are under the authority of Hizbollah will be hit harder and Hizbollah will he hit harder."

There was a more muted analysis from other members of the government. Yossi Beilin, a cahinet minister in Mr Peres's office, said there would be no drastic ebange in the situation

Government ministers in at the border until Israel had a units which have good intelli-erusalem were yesterday comprehensive diplomatic gence and are highly trained.

There were several signs of Lebanon". The air attacks so far have been light, probably designed more as a warning than a serious military assault.

The danger for the govern-ment is that Hizbollah will strike back both against Israeli troops in their occupation zone in southern Lebanon and through Katyusha rocket attacks against northern tsrael. The guerrillas have shown in recent months that they effective at evading Israeli patrols and staging complicated ambushes. The Israeli explanation for this is that Hizbollah has set up special

this increased sophistication in recent weeks. In one instance a Hizbollah unit fired shots at a natrol on the Israeli side of the border and then killed four soldiers who pursued them with a mine; a senior Israeli officer was targeted by a suicide bomber, and a bomb was placed in the local office of the South Lebanon Army, the local Lebanese militia armed and

trained by Israel. All this is in sharp contrast to the military incompetence of the Palestine Liberation Army when it ruled south Lebanon beits forces numbered about 6,000

- while Hizbollah forces are probably in the hundreds - it failed to mine the roads or bridges. Hizbollah has proved a much tougher antagonist and. as one Israeli observer put it, "Peres cannot afford another 20 military funerals."

Israel's opponents are far more skilled than they used to he, but Israeli tactics have remained much the same. Air attacks on Beirut and Baalbek and reported shelling by gunboats are an old recipe which

has not proved very effective. One possible innovation in Israeli tactics is to target villages

are alleged to have been fired. Israel might announce that Hizboliah must leave certain villages by a certain date or Israel

will feel free to fire at them. If it does so this will mean the end of the understanding, hrokered by the US in 1993, whereby Israel and Hizbollah pledge not to hit each other's civilians

except by way of retaliation.
This would mean an escalation in Lebanon just when the Israeli government does not want it. In 50 days it will face a general election. It bad hoped that Lebanon would not become an issue. It has enough troubles calming public anxiety

from which Katyusha rockets over the four suicide bomh

But an editorial in the daily

to the right The air strikes yesterday were action is being taken, send a warning to Hizbollah but, at the same time, not escalate the level of fighting. The extent of Hizbollah retaliation will decide if Mr Peres has achieved these contradictory objectives.

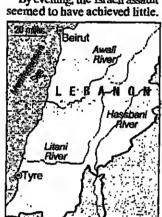
## Fears rise of new cycle of Lebanese bloodshed

ROBERT FISK

Israel's long-expected blitz on Lebanon - a day of air attacks that hit Beirut for the first time in almost 14 years - bad last night produced near-stalemate as the Hizbollah militia threatened retaliation against Israel.

Rafiq Hariri, the Lehanese Prime Minister, warned that the vicious circle of violence" which left at least four dead and six wounded across Lehanon, could run out of control unless the Israelis, who said their raids were in retaliation to an earlier Hizbollah Katyusba attack, resolved to withdraw their occupation troops from the south of the country.

By evening, the Israeli assault



Of the four known dead, three were civilians - one a 27-yearold woman killed in her car by a missile-firing Israeli belicopter near the Jiye power station - while an air raid on a supposed Hizbollah office outside the eastern Lebanese city of Baalbek merely destroyed the municipal rubbish dump.

Despite Israel's muebtrumpeted "destruction" of a "terrorist operational nervecentre", the Hizbollah's beadquarters in Berrut - the high-rise Mailis al- Shura council building - appeared untouched, aithough militiamen prevented reporters from moving less than 200 metres from the building.

The only military casualty was a Lebanese soldier manning a checkpoint south of the city of Tyre who was killed when the Israelis bombed an army antiaircraft unit which bad been firing at their belicopters.

The Israelis later warned the Lebanese army to "stay neutral" in their attack on Hizboliah hut the Lebanese Minister of Defence, who declared the dead soldier a "martyr", ordered his hrigades in southern Lebanon to fire at Israeli forces in the air or on the ground. Presumably aware of the

civilian casualties that would be wrought by the air assault, an Israeli army statement warned during the day that "civilians who live next to Hizbollah activist (sic) centres and homes may be hurt." But the radio station of Israel's proxy South Lebanon Army militia said electricity stations and water systems may be attacked, suggesting Israel's real intention was to threaten Lebanon's government with disaster unless it disarmed the "Islamic Resistance" movement in southern Lebanon.

But Mr Hariri said last night that attacks on Israelis inside southern Lebanon would continue unless Israel abided by UN Security Council resolution 425, to withdraw all Israeli forces from southern Lehanon.

Syria called the attacks "an act of aggression that would damage the Middle East peace process." What caused deep concern for Mr Hariri, however, was not so much the casualties but the assault on Beirut. Not since the bot August days of the Israeli siege of 1982 when their enemies were the PLO - now their new allies bave the Israelis attacked the Lebanese capital.

By the standards of 14 years ago, yesterday's missile-firing helicopters were a pin-prick, but they were intended - as both the Lebanese and the Syrians knew - to carry a message: further at-tacks on Beirut could be less restrained, more bloody and longer-lasting; so why don't the

who are causing so many casualties among Israel's occupation troops in the south? As Mr Hariri made clear last night, nei-

ther Beirut nor Damascus

planned any such action. In 1993, after Israel responded to the killing of eight occupation soldiers with an air bombardment that slaughtered 123 Lebanese civilians, an agreement brokered by the US and Syria between Israel and the Hizbollah stipulated that neither side would attack the other's civilians unless the other did so first. Last month, the Israelis apologised for killing two young civilian men in the village of Yater for fear that the Hizbollah might fire Katyusha rockets over the border. Last weekend. a boy was killed by a bomb in the neighbouring village of Bradchit Hizbollah's belief that

Lebanese and Syrian govern- detonated by the Israelis ments disarm the Hizbollah prompted the Katyusha attack which wounded 13 civilians in Galilee and provoked yesterday's counter-counter-retalia-

tion by Israel. The Lebanese and Syrians realise Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, is under pressure prior to the 29 May elections, to show he can tame the Hizbollah. But the militia's determination to go on fighting the Israelis inside Lebanon means the Israelis are likely to face retaliation in response to their own retaliation, a cycle of mutual revenge which, as Mr Hariri said, can become self-

generating.
Hizbollah and security sources in southern Lebanon suggested last night that further Katvusha attacks would be made against Israel in response to today's raids. Rumours in Beirut spoke of a planned Israeli the explosives were commandcommando raid on the capital.



Air force: Bystanders in a southern suburb of Beirut inspect the damage caused by Israeli aerial bombardment

attacks which killed 62 people in Fehruary and March.

newspaper Ha'aretz said a breaking point was close in northern Israel when "the population will move southward and, in politics, voters will shift

an attempt to achieve three aims: Show Israelis that firm

#### Crisis countdown • 11 April — Israeli heli-

copter gunships blasted Hizbollah guemila targets in Beirut's southern suburbs yesterday, the first Israeli raid on the Lebanese capital in nearly 14 years. Following are the main events in the latest round of violence between Lebanon's pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) and Israeli forces. • 4 March — Hizbollah guerrillas kill four Israeli soldiers in Israel's south Lebanon occupation zone, One Hizbollan guernila tilled.

• 10 March — One Israeli soldier killed and four wounded in Hizboliah bornb attack in occupation zone.

• 14 March — Five Israeli soldiers wounded in Hizbot: lah raid.

• 20 March — Hizboliah suicide bomber kills one israeli soldier in attack near south Lebanon villages killing two civilians. Hizbollah fires Katyusha rockets into northem Israel: no casualties. · 8 April - Bomb blast kills Lebanese boy and wounds. tivee people in a guerillaheld south Lebanon village,

9 April — Hizboliah blames Israel for bomb blast and guerrillas fire Katyusha rockets into northern Israel, wounding 36 people. • 10 April -- One Israeli sol-

dier killed, three wounded in Hizboliah shelling of their outpost in zone.

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WHEN HARRY

## Looting orgy grips Monrovia

ACKSON KANNEH Peuters

Monrovia - Gangs of Liberian inlitiamen blasted their way though gates with rocket-propelled grenades and carried offtheir spoils in United Nations vehicles as fighting here turned into a frenzy of looting

yeserday. The United States diverted a warhip from the Adriatic to heldevacuate foreigners. Residens confined to their bomes since fighting erupted on Sat-urday said food and water were running short. Looters attacked the Libanese school next to the the Mamba Point area as a pri-US embassy in the Mamba Point listrict and used vehicles from the UN military observer mission to carry off their spoils. cies, most embassies and

They also invaded UN Development Programme offices. A witness said looters, who have emptied shops of goods, were attacking bomes and seiz-

mander of the Ecomog African peace-keeping force, said his men were trying to take key distriets of the capital to prevent carnage spreading. Units had intercepted guerrillas trying to infiltrate the capital from westem Liberia to back colleagues locked in fighting. A number of guerrillas died in the clash.
"We ... should try and secure coalition government tried to ar-

ing private cars. General John Intenger, com-

ority." he said, referring to the district where the UNDP offices, other international agen-

diplomatie residences are. US cord which was signed in Nigebebcopters have been ferrying ria last August. Nigeria and Ghana, which foreigners from the US embassy in the district to Freetown

bave the largest contingents of or Dakar. US officials said troops in the Ecomog force, flights might have to be rewhich was sent to Liberia in stricted to night-time because 1990, held urgent consultaof fear of daytime attack from tions on Wednesday and militia gunners with rocketpledged their commitment to the regional peace-keeping ef-fort. "Whatever the cost, propelled grenades. Nearly 400 people have been evacuated since Tuesday and hundreds Liberia and Liberians must not more are in the embassy. be abandoned to their fate," a In six years of civil war in Gbanaian official said after a Liberia the capital had been reldelegation from President Jerry Rawlings beld talks with the atively safe until clashes erupt-Nigerian military ruler, General Sani Abacha, in Abuja.

General Injenger said Ecowarlord, Roosevelt Johnson, mog peace-keepers and other hostages, including scores of on murder charges. The fighting is the most se-Lebanese, were still held by Mr rious threat to a 1995 peace ac- Johnson's backers.







HARDWARE See in-store for details

## Violence threatens Natal poll again

ANTON FERREIRA Reuter

Pretoria - President Nelson Mandela vesterday said localgovernment elections in KwaZulu-Natal might have to be postpored for a second time because of widespread violence and intinidation in the province.

He said he would meet the Inkatha Freedom Party leader. Mangosuthu Buthelezi, in Cape Town today to discuss whether the election should go ahead as in Pretoria with Chris Fismer, still no-go areas where there is poned altogether or be held in

Violence between Mr Mandela's African National .. Congress and Inkatha, which has a majority in KwaZulu-Natal, has the relative calm in most of the country since the all-race general election in 1994.

Mandela said after a meeting a boundary dispute. "There are ... areas?"

and his deputy, Mohammed Mandela said. Valli Moosa.

rest the Krahn tribe militia

postponed in November be-

scheduled on 29 May, be post- Minister of Constitutional Af- no guarantee that free and fair fairs and Local Government. elections can be held." Mr "We cannot ignore the fact

Mr Fismer and Mr Valli that so many people have died Moosa reported to him on a vis- and the prediction is that more it they made this week to the people are going to die as the raged on in the province despite. province to canvass views on rhetoric from the political orwhether the election should go gamisations intensifies. What is ahead as planned. The poll was the point of having elections when some organisations can-There is a high level of cause of violence and then put not do their political work in deaths in the province," Mr. off again in March because of some areas, and these are vast

## international

## Gibraltar drug chase death angers Spain

ELIZABETH NASH

Madrid gives Britain a dressing-down after helicopter crashes pursuing speedboat off the Rock

Spain imposed strict border controls and Britain's ambassador in Madrid was summoned to the Spanish foreign ministry for a dressing-down yesterday. after a civil guardsman died in a helicopter crash off the southern coast while in pursuit of a Gibraltar-registered speedboat part of the responsibility. It has only smpped off the leaves of the carrot. The root is still suspected of drug-running. The incident was described as "very serious" and reignites the long-smouldering row with Britain over drugs being smuggled via Gibraltar from Morocco to alive and we want it pulled up,"

Brighty, received a formal complaint that Britain was not doing enough to stamp out drug smuggling through Gihraltar, a senior Spanish diplomatic official said. "The incident shows that the smuggling operators are still active. Britain, as the colostrengthened. Spanish regional authorities nial power, bears a very large

Prodded by Madrid, Britain last summer imposed measures to combat smuggling and

money-laundering in Gibraltar considerable inconvenience for it fell into the sea near Cape fired on the civil guard heli-that were acknowledged by all visitors to the Rock, but were Trafalgar on Wednesday afterparties to have cut down illicit traffic. But the foreign ministry said yesterday that the measures had been "neither effective nor sufficient" and must be

slapped what they described as "very severe controls" on the border with Gibraltar in response to "the intolerable rebirth of the speedboat smugglers". The regional goveroor admitted that the stringent measures would probably cause

necessitated by recent events. A British embassy spokeswoman, commenting on the meeting between Mr Brighty

and the foreign ministry's head of European affairs, Jose Ro-driguez Spiteri, said: The ambassador received Spain's expressions of displeasure and reiterated HMG's commitment to eradicate drug and tobacco

The stricken civil guard helicopter was closely pursuing a Gibraltarian speedboat when

noon, killing one of the crew. Two others swam to safety. Two men on board the speed-

boat, a Gibraltarian and a Moroccan, were detained. They apparently told the authorities they had unloaded 600kg of hashish from Morocco on to the beach near the Spanish town of Barbate and were returning to Gibraltar. A third man, a Spaniard, escaped.

Earlier on Wednesday, the three-man crew of another Gibraltar-registered speedboat

copter with marine-llare pistols off the coastal town of Tarifa. The three, two Gibraltarians and a Briton, were detained, but on this occasion the helicopter was not harmed.

Gibraltar's Chief Minister, Joe Bossano, yesterday rejected the suggestion that his authorities were not doing enough to combat drug-trafficking. "We have tightened the system as much as we can, we are spending proportionately more than either Spain or Britain, but no system is 100 per cent foolproof.

SARAH HELM

World donors meet today in

Bosnia, envisaged under the

Dayton peace accords as the

However, the meeting takes

place amid increasing doubts

about the role to be played by

the international community

in the reconstruction effort.

Western analysts are also scep-

tical about whether recon-

struction can really cement over

the deeply-rooted enmities,

thereby preventing further war. The decision announced on

Wednesday by Bosnian Serb leaders not to attend the donor

conference provided a stark il-

histration of how distant the con-

cept of permanent reconciliation remains. Rajko Kasagic, prime minister of the Bosnian Serb re-

public, is reported to have re-jected an invitation to attend the

conference because of pressure from hardline Bosnian Serbs,

who remain determined to dis-

rupt the peace process.

At the Brussels conference,

sponsored by the European Union and the World Bank,

donors aim to stump up \$1.2bn

(£800m) - the minimum figure set by the World Bank for the

first year of reconstruction.

Over the next three to four years an estimated \$5.1bn will be

foundation for lasting peace.

now only 10 legally berthed in Gibraltar's harbour, compared with more than 60 last summer. But it's still 10 too many," Mr

Bossano said vesterday. Mr Bossano reiterated his long-standing complaint that Gibraltarians were not the only ones involved in trafficking. My responsibility is to remove the Gibraltar connection. Even when in time we eliminate all the boats registered in Gibraltar, this will not stop the





Flower power: A new sculpture based on Fernand Léger's 'La Fleur Qui Marche', in the Place de la Concorde, Paris. The exhibit is one of many being installed along the Champs d'Elysée which is becoming the world's biggest open-air art gallery

## Clarke pressed to rejoin ERM

SARAH HELM

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, will be strongly pressed by his European partners tomorrow to take Britain back into a revamped Exchange Rate

meeting in Verona will acknowledge they have little power to force Britain to rejoin a

currency pact against its will.

The idea of establishing a new ERM for those countries which do not join the single currency in the first wave, has been intensively discussed within the EU for almost a year, but will be formally proposed for the first time tomorrow at the

Most member states believe those countries which do not qualify for EMU, or do not wish to join at the beginning, should agree to join a mini ERM. in order to ensure a stable relationship hetween the so-called the single market. The setting-ins" and "outs". Without a new up of an ERM is the solution Mechanism, in preparation for joining the single currency.

However, Mr Clarke is cer
"outs", or, the "pre-ins", as the However, Mr Clarke is certain to resist any such move, and European finance ministers meeting in Verona will acsingle market may be severely

undermined. For Britain, to consider rejoining an ERM in the run-up to the next election and prior to any decision to join monetary union is unthinkable. It would cause outrage among the Euro-sceptics who celebrated Britain's departure from the ERM in September 1992. However. Britain has been hoist by no legal grounds for insisting its own petard over the issue. ever. Britain has been hoist by

For, it was John Major who first insisted, at the Cannes summit in June, that the EU should examine the relationship between the "ins" and the "outs" and the effect it might have on that Mr Major's partners have come up with.

opposing the principle of a new ERM. However, although Germany, France and the European Commission would like to ohlige Britain to join, there is general acceptance that to do so would be political unwise, hardening British attitudes against the entire single currency project. Furthermore, the experts concede that there are

Asked whether Britain should be forced to join such a nact. Yves Thibault de Silguy the Economics Commissioner said all 15 EU members would be expected to act as one

"rugby team".
"We do not want one or two members just want one or two
members just watching," he
said. But Mr de Silguy gave no
hint that sanctions could be
imposed if Britain remains on the sidelines, suggesting, instead, ways of cajoling Britain into accepting the system.

Outlining the ERM options to be tabled in Verona, Mr de

Silguy said one possibility would be a strict system which will be entirely optional. Another idea would an ERM so flexible that even Britain would find it acceptable to join. Commission officials have also canvassed the idea of calling a future ERM something totally different.

## kills 12

Düsseldorf (AP) - At least 12 people were killed and 50 injured when fire broke out in a flower shop at Düsseldorf air-

port yesterday. Many of the deaths appeared to have been caused by inhaling gas. The dead were found in the shop and a lift. Police said the death count could rise because of the seriousness of some of the injuries. Panic broke out in the arrivals

hall when the fire erupted.

ZDF television showed pictures of a deserted, smoky terminal after the fire, and a body covered with a sheet on a stretcher on the street outside.

"My co-worker saw sparks flying out of a ventilation grille over this flower store and he im-mediately called the fire brigade," a young man told the television station.

A spokesman for the airport said people were treated at the scene for fire-related injuries. Uninjured travellers were taken to hotels or to the Konrad Adenauer Airport, which serves Cologne and Bonn, where planes that had been scheduled to arrive at Dusseldorf were being directed.

Officials evacuated the terminal and closed the airport to all flights. The shop where the fire started was being repaired and this was considered a pos-

But the reconstruction of Bosnia is dormant: the only rebuilding to date has been done by Nato troops, aid agencies, local entrepreneurs and householders. None of the money pledged by foreign governments

pledge \$200m, Japan \$125m, and the European Union \$200m. Several EU countries will offer their own separate donations, and Islamic countries are expected to pledge about \$100m.

Doubts grow over

Bosnia rebuilding

However, despite these generous noises, nobody is under any illusion about the reluctance of the world community to pay up. Carl Bildt, the High Representative responsible for im-plementing the civilian side of the peace deal, has already predicted a \$400m shortfall at the Brussels conference.

A conference held in December produced promises of \$600m, but the donors have been slow to hand over the cash and only a fraction of this first sum has yet been spent. As a result there has yet been little reconstruction on the ground to produce any real confidence in the Dayton process.

The dilemma for the donors

is acute. It is accepted that without Westero money there can be no substantial rebuilding or economic revival, and, as a result, there will be no chance of creating the conditions for the next phase of the peace process, namely the preparations for elections in September.

However, since Dayton, the donors have seen less and less reason to believe that the peace

During the Brussels confer- tween Bosnia's Serbs, Muslims ence, the US is expected to and Croats. "We see no guarantee that if we spend the monev there will be any return," said one Western official this week.

The task of separating the warring parties and returning the forces to barracks has been largely completed already by the 60,000-strong Nato implemen-tation force (1-For). However, the job of rebuilding, bringing about the return of refugees, ensuring free movement and a free media, and establishing institutions for the new Bosnia, has scarcely begun. Under the peace deal the Serb entity consists of 49 per cent of Bosnia with the Muslim-Croat federation covering the rest. Institutions responsible for both entities were to have been established before the end of the year, as well as economic projects crossing ethnic boundaries.

Westero diplomats voice increasing impatience about the Bosnians' reluctance to build the peace. "Everyone there is standing around waiting for the international community to do something," said one Nato official. There is talk of the dangers of creating a culture of dependency. "There is deepening fear among the donor governments that the elections, even if they do come about will only reconfirm the dominance of the existing extreme nationalist parties, and will not bring in a leadership needed to rebuild devastated in-frastructure, towns and villages. has so far brought about any fundamental reconciliation be-said a Western diplomat.

## Red tape and no money keep former soldiers idle

EMMA DALY

A battered truck, modified to waiting for the next order. This being Sarajevo, its windscreen is decorated with concentric circles of shattered glass, courtesy of a wartime bullet.

Inside, men are cutting panes for one of Bosnia's growth industries. Since the signing of the Dayton peace plan at the end of November, Interglass has fitted around 200 to 300 square metres of glass each working day. Gone is the plastic sheeting,

marked in blue with the acronym of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Ubiq-nitous in the war, it has been replaced with glass. Interglass, the largest private glass com-pany in the city, has tripled its pre-war workforce to accommodate the boom.

Those working for Carl Bildt, the High Representative in carry sheets of glass, stands charge of co-ordinating recon-outside the office of Interglass struction, say the immediate problem is not a lack of cash but a surfeit of bureaucracy, which threatens to exacerbate the obvious dangers of demobilising thousands of soldiers who have

no jobs and no prospects.
The World Bank, which will administer the aid donated at this weekend's conference, has rigorous and time-consuming procedure for dispersing funds, aimed at ensuring the money is accounted for and spent on worthwhile projects. The prob-lem, say Mr Bildt's staff, is that Bosnia needs cash now, so that the unemployed can be put to work paving the ground for

larger projects.
"There is a huge conflict between the political requirements on the ground and the normal working processes of the World Bank," said Duncan Bullivant, a spokesman for Mr Bildt. He maintains that the priority is first to repair infrastructure and then to provide work for the thousands on both

has reached Bosnia, according sides who must be demobilised to international civilian officials. hy the 18 April under the

"They need jobs now to get them off the streets." Mr Bullivant said. Mr Bildt envisages "Depression-style" hiring, in which locals would be employed for casual work such as clearing rubble before the bigger projects begin. If money for such action is not forthcoming "it's going to create a sea of opportunity for political extremism", he said.

There are no big foreign reconstruction projects under way. Western troops are working to repair electricity lines ir eastern Bosnia for example jus; as British troops have rebuilt :bakery in Gornji Vakuf.

In Tuzla, 16 British fire fighers are helping to renovate i kindergarten, with money privided by War on Want and

Norwegian Peoples Aid.
The success of the Dayton
peace plan will depend on traislating political accords into na-terial benefits for the exhaused people of Bosnia and that vill require a large - and swift -in-jection of cash. Only the hope of prosperity will silence the siren songs of nationalism.

the Standary was I

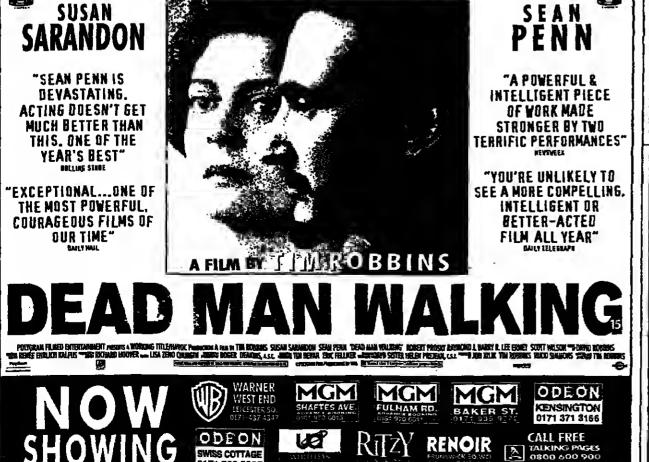
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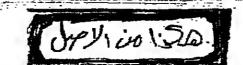


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### Election shock for Korean E ... A ... 3 V. 1

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

The ruling party of President Kim Young Sam staged a surprising recovery in elections to the South Korean National Assembly yesterday, thus jeopardising the hopes of the country's most prominent opposition leader. As the results emerged, an angry North Korea issued dire new threats of war.

Pollsters and even party members had predicted that the president's New Korea Party (NKP) would lose its majority in the 299-seat parliament where it holds 150 seats. But early returns indicated a final sbowing of close to 140 enough, with the support of unaffiliated independents, to maintain overall control.

The leading opposition party, the National Congress for New Politics (NCNP), led by the veteran dissident Kim Dae Jung, made far fewer gains than anticipated, while the United Liberal Democrats led by Kim Jong Pil, who served under Korea's military dictators, increased its showing.

The most important factor influencing voters was probably the tense situation on the border, where North Korean troops staged small-scale incursions of the demilitarised zone last weekend, after renouncing the 43year-old armistice which brought peace to the peninsula

after the Korean War. Apart from increasing surveillance of the North, the American-led United Nations command took a cool view of the incursions, which appeared to be little more than acts of bellicose showmanship designed to pressure the US into direct talks with Pyongyang. In Seoul, however, they provoked alarm, which the government did nothing to discourage. This appears to have persuaded large numbers of un-

decided voters to opt for caution rather than change, to the benefit of the ruling party. The results reflect a public

opposition

aspiration for stability and are a strong popular endorsement for President Kim," said a spokesman for the ruling party.

The incidents in the demilitarised zone strengthened peo-ple's belief that a strong mandate for the president and bis ruling party is essential to national security.

The irony of all this - a nearvictory for the government conrtesy of its deadliest adversary - was lost on Pyongyang. Even as the votes for the NKP mounted, the official North Korean media yesterday issued the latest in a series of bloodcurdling statements, denouncing the South for unspecified acts of military intimidation. "If the South Korean puppets dare provoke war against us like a new-horn puppy knowing no fear of a tiger," the Rodong Sinmun newspaper commented, "we will deal a beavy blow to the provokers and punish their crimes a thousand-fold."

Reflecting rucfully on all this will be the NCNP leader, Kim Dae Jung. A one time friend of President Kim, in their days as pro-democracy dissidents under the military dictatorship, he has three times stood for the presidency and lost. His last chance would have been in next year's presidential elections, and so confident was he of success in yesterday's poli that he placed himself 14th on a list of party nominees for seats allotted by proportional representation. But the NCNP was last night set to win little more than 75 seats, leaving Kim a good chance of losing his assembly seat.

The scene is now set for President Kim to appoint his own successor as president, and continue his reforms of the stock exchange and hureaucracy.



Rebels with a cause: Two Kurdish fighters sitting tied up on the top of a mountain after being captured by Turkish troops during an offensive against the PKK guerillas in Turkey's south-eastern province of Diyarkablr

## Chechen peace plan on the brink

PHIL REEVES

Nearly a fortnight after it was presented to an expectant outside world, Boris Yeltsin's much-vaunted and longdelayed plan to bring peace to Chechnya is showing increasing symptoms of being destined to lie m its infancy. Fears are growing among Mr

Yeltsin's liberal supporters that hardliners in the Russian military are ignoring his peace ini-tiative altogether, and are pushing on with the war in the selicf that they can win it.

These concerns were fuelled esterday by a hurst of beligerent rhetoric from the commander of the Russian Interior Ministry troops,

General Anatoly Shkirko, who declared that Dzhokhar Dudavev's Chechen fighters must either give up their weapons or be "smashed". The matter could not be settled "balf way", he told Interfax news agency.

The general made clear that attempts to crush the rebels would come under the category of "special operations", which the president has decided to continue, despite calling a halt to large-scale military action when he unveiled his peace mitiative on 31 March.

"Special operations", however, appears to be a catch-all phrase which the Russian military is using to justify a range of activities. In the last 11 days. there has been little sign of the "peace and tranquillity" which Mr Yeltsin promised, but plen-ty of hloodshed,

At least 15 villages have come under air, artillery or infantry attack. According to Chechen rebel supporters, 10 people died when a bomb exploded underneath a dais where the rebel commander, Aslan Maskhadov, was dne to speak. More than 100 Russian federal troops, and an unknown number of Chechens, have died.

One village, Shalazhi, was bombed on the day after its elders signed a peace accord with the Russians and the Moscowbacked Chechen government although this was denied by the commander of the Russian Air Force, Pyotr Deinekin. He made the astonishing claim that around Mr Yeltsin, both in the the bombs were not the work of

his jets, but of "provocateurs" who had placed "special depth charges" in the village.

The continuation of bostilities, and the failure of the Russian authorities to provide any reliable information about its activities in Chechnya, is feeding pessimism that Russia has seen the last of the 16-month conflict in which at least 30,000 have died. Yesterday the Russian newspaper Segodnya de-clared that Mr Yeltsin's

initiative was already "on the This diagnosis coincided with a warning from the governor of Nizhny Novgorod, Boris Nemstov, one of the country's bestknown liberals, that the hawks military and within the

Kremlin, could be propelling him to electoral defeat. 'The part of Yeltsin's entourage which toys with illusions

about the possibility of victory not only leaves no chance for Yeltsin to implement his peace plan hut also makes his defeat in the coming election possible," be said.

The only glimmer of hope is that General Dudayev appears to be willing to accept Mr Yeltsin's offer of mediated talks, despite his preference for direct negotiations with the president himself. Striking an unusually conciliatory note, he described Mr Yeltsin as "the least culpahle" of senior Russian officials. and hlamed "red-hrown" forces in his administration for undermining his policy.

#### IN BRIEF

#### FBI checks Bomber romance theory

Washington — The FBI is investigating a failed romantic relationship involving Unabomber suspect Theodore Kaczynski in 1978 when the bombing spree began, a source close to the case said. The source said Mr Kaczynski's family brought the difficult break-up to the attention of the bureau. But an FBI official expressed scepticism that the break-up was the motive.

#### Frontier row

Vladivostok - Boris Yeltsin has ordered a temporary halt to the demarcation of a disputed part of the Russian-Chinese border. The dispute will be discussed during the Russian President's visit to China this

#### Deer resurfaces

Peking - A species of red deer believed to have become extinct in Tibet has been rediscovered by Chinese and US scientists. They found herds of the endangered wapiti, or red deer during a survey of Sangri coun-

#### "Racist" French

Geneva - France is being shaken by "a wave of xenophobia and racism", a UN investigator said. UN Human Rights Commission investigator Maurice Glele-Ahanhanzo said the problems had been made much worse by anti-immigration laws passed in 1993.

#### Libel award

Singapore — Former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew won an extra \$71,000 (£47,000) in a libel suit over a newspaper article that Mr Lee said accused him of using Singapore's courts as a tool for repression. The damage award ends the last pending legal action by Singapore authorities over articles published in 1994 by the International Herald Tribune. .4P

#### Telecoms strike

Paris -- Workers at France Telecom went on strike to protest against plans to streamline the national telecoms operator and prepare it for partial privatisation.

#### Waste danger

Moscow — Nuclear officials warned that ponds containing liquid radioactive wastes at the Mayak plant in the Ural mountains nuclear plant were in danger of overflowing and could contaminate large inhabited

## INO MOLE soldiers #

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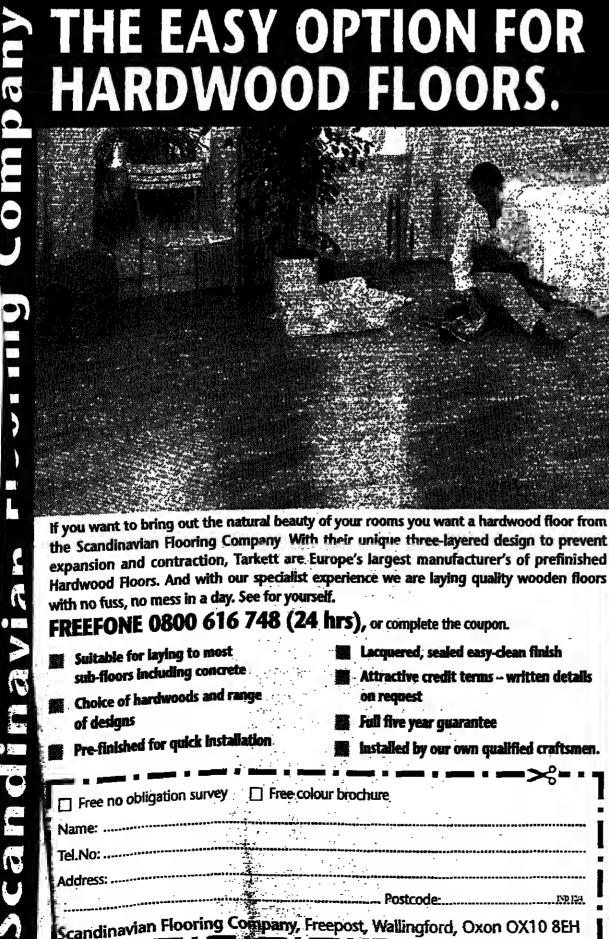
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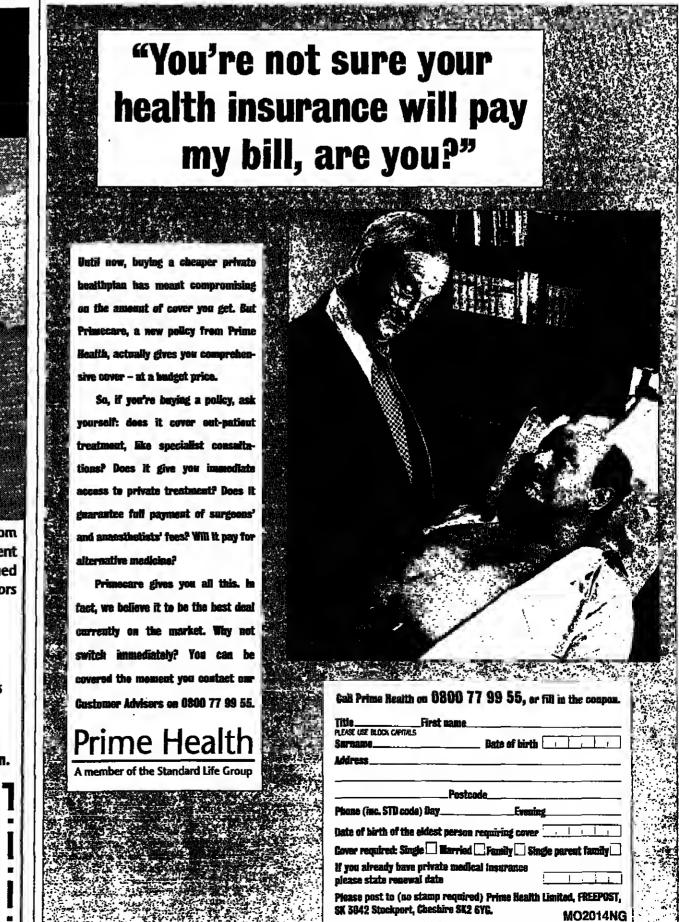
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## obituaries/gazette

## **Professor** Gordon Pask

Gordon Pask was one of the founding fathers of cybernetics, conflict. His vision was of a founding fathers of cybernetics. the interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary intellectual movement that sprang up after the Second World War. The science of control and communication in the animal and the machine" was how it was de-fined by Norbert Wiener, the American mathematician who in the 1940s coined the name cybernetics, the "art of steersmanship", from the Greek word kubernetes. Pask's book An Approach to Cybernetics (1961) is still one of the most accessible introductions to the

Pask was a rare man in other ways. He was an eccentric in the best sense; gifted and original as a scientist, artist and lyricist. He had an exceptionally productive career (several books and over 200 published papers). His many contributions are still being assimilated in psychology, educational tech-nology, cybernetics and systems science.

The founders of cybernetics included hiologists and neurologists, mathematicians and engineers, psychologists, sociologists, anthropologists and economists. Many were world leaders in their fields (Wiener had helped develop the world's first computers in the 1940s). They recognised that many problems can only be solved by interdisciplinary working, and sought to establish a common language and a shared set of principles for understanding the organisation of complex

In many ways they were successful. Cyhernetic concepts such as flow of information, control by feedback, adaptation, learning and self-organisation have permeated many disciplines, especially those concorned with natural and artificial complex systems. By the Sixties, there was a conservative backlash against cybernetics. Many thought its claims too grandiose and did not share the world's first adaptive teachthe vision of the need for a new synthesis. Some scientists played safe, borrowing the ideas hut not using the name. Daughter disciplines have developed: artificial intelligence, systems science, cognitive science, the new sciences of chaos, complexity and artificial life. At in this area. times, the new disciplines have overshadowed or forgotten their parent.

Gordon Pask was, hy nature. a transdisciplinary, holistic thinker. He always held true to Wiener's original vision and remained committed to cyber-

nctics as a unifying discipline. His major work was the development of Conversation Theory, with applications in education (the two main works were Conversation, Cognition and Learning, 1975, and Conversation Theory: applications in education and epistemology, 1976). This grew out of his work with teaching machines. Pask conceived human-machine interaction as a form of conversation, a dynamical process, in which the participants learn about each other.

More recently, he worked on Interaction of Actors Theory. which takes a broader look at communication and the dynamics of social systems. In true cyberoetic spirit, he worked hard at huilding unifying bridges hetween the natural sciences, the social sciences and the humanities. He recognised common concerns with the discursive and interpretive practices that help form individual and cultural identities and that establish institutional practices as the norm. His wish was to develop a social cybernetics that would belp comhat healthy society, in which there is unity without uniformity, love, peace and justice for all.

Pask was also much concerned with the role computers and the new information technologies can play in making pos-itive contributions to our lives. He foresaw most of today's new developments decades ago. His book Microman (published in 1982, and co-authored by Susan Curran) gives an accessible account of many of them. In particular, he looked to the day when all human knowledge would be located in selforganising, interactive, multimedia archives, with intelligent agents to support learning and

In his youth, Gordon Pask was a geologist and a theatrical producer. He painted and designed stage sets. He built special-purpose, electromechanical, chemical and hiological computers. An early system, "Musicolour" (1953), drove an array of lights that adapted to a musician's performance. This was followed by Saki (1956), a "self-adaptive keyboard instructor". Saki was



Pask: 'the Cambridge scientist who never slept'

ing system to go into commercial production. His chemical computers, from 1958, were self-organising systems that grew their own sensors, primitive eyes and ears. Recently, workers in robotics have rediscovered and taken up his ideas

Later systems were even more sophisticated in their use of computers to aid teaching and training, Caste (1972) was a "course assembly system and tutorial environment, in which learners could, holistically or serially, work through complex bodies of knowledge. Thoughtsticker (1974) helped you map your ideas and suggested novel combinations and perspec-tives. "Colloquy of Mobiles" was a cybernetic sculpture in which automata "conversed". Armed with a mirror and a torch, a

human spectator could join in. In 1953, with Rohin McKinnon-Wood, Pask founded System Research Ltd. a nonprofit research organisation. For 30 years, he was the company's director of research, attracting funding from a wide range of agencies (including the United States Air Force, Ministry of Defence, Department of Education and Science and the Social Science Research Council). His research teams worked on skill acquisition, styles and strategies of learning, learning in groups, knowledge and task analysis, processes of design,

decision-making, problem-solving and learning to learn. By the 1960s Pask's many achievements and colourful personality had caught the attention of the popular press. He became known as "the Cambridge scientist who never

sleeps", because of his habit of working non-stop on problems once his interest was caught. His views were sought on a range of topics to do with the impact of computers and antomation.

In 1969, he became Professor in the Department of Cy-bernetics, Brunel University. He attracted postgraduate stu-dents from many different parts of the world and involved himself wholeheartedly in their supervision. He was a gifted and inspiring teacher. From 1974 to 1979, he was

visiting Professor in the Open University's Institute of Educational Technology. With Brian Lewis and David Hawkridge, he helped define educational technology as a coherent discipline. He also acted as visiting professor in a number of other institutions: the Universities of Illinois and of Mexico; Georgia Institute of Technology; University of Amsterdam; Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia; Concordia University. Montreal: and, in the United Kingdom, the Architectural Association.

Pask travelled widely as an envoy for cyberoetics. He helped build up the international community of cyberneticians, particularly in Europe, but also in North and South America and the Middle East.

In recent years, Pask fostered the so-called "new" or "secondorder" cybernetics. Here, the observer himself, the one who distinguishes and analyses complex phenomena (cells, hrains, societies), becomes the object of study. He was fascinated by the processes that take place amongst communities of observers (scientists, artists and other practitioners) as they estahlish and maintain shared world-views and shared ways of coming to know, Pask's phrase for the processes of learning and discovery.

His brother Gar, a professor of anaesthetics, had died in the Second World War, and Pask himself was a true patriot, who loved his country, and in particular London. In some ways, his dress and manner were from another era. He always wore a bow tie with his double-breasted suits. When out and about, he would dress in one of his many capes with a frog at the throat. He was a great admirer of Sherlock Holmes. One of his last works was a novel, Flaxman Lowe. The heroes are "consulting detectives"; some of the main characters are ghosts. In an earlier lyric, he had written of life as a song that always returns, that has no beginning or

In his later years, inspired by his wife, Elizabeth, Gordon Pask became a Roman Catholic. This deeply satisfied his need for understandings that address the great mysteries of life that can unite and

inspire us. His death was not unexpected. He had been battling against serious and painful illness for some years. To the end, he continued to be productive, brave and cheerful. His power to inspire was evident throughout his working life. Pask was a very kind, polite, gentle, compassionate and generous human

Given his anticipation of the Internet, it is perhaps fitting that some of his friends are creating a Gordon Pask memorial

Bernard Scott

Gordon Pask, cybernetician: born Derby 28 June 1928; Professor of Cybernetics, Brunel University 1969-96; married 1956 Elizabeth Poole (two daughters); died



#### **James Rouse**

lames Rouse was a visionary of urban renewal who developed the world's first shopping mall in Baltimore, built new towns in the US countryside and used the profits to help generate housing for the poor. An anomaly among developers, he passion-ately believed in the social henefit of his projects and his innovations forced the reappraisal of suburban growth and inner city organisation.

His most famous development was Columbia, a new town hull on 14,000 acres of farmland outside Baltimore in the late Sixties. Based on the concept of racial and economic diversity and intended as a response to the chantic post-war development of American cities, it was built as a selfcontained community organised around nine small "villages". each containing several hundred houses and its own small shopping area. It now has \$0,000 residents.

"It's not an attempt at a perfect city or Utopia, but rather an effort to simply develop a better city, an alternative to the

Audrey Nicholson was a pas-

sionate Yorkshirewoman. She

was passionate about her pro-

fession, school-teaching. She

was passionate about poetry and

poets. She was passionate about

the unnecessity of sprawl and clutter as a way of accommodating growth of the American city," he said in 1982

He made it clear that aesthetics were never the driving force in his design and it was his near-obsessive observation of social patterns which led to many of his innovations. He would watch people walk on the streets, and shop and socialise in public places, and attempted to fashion his designs to promnte rather than discourage

The son of a prosperous canned-foods broker, Rouse was taught to work hard, rising at dawn to tend the family vegetable garden. In 1930 his father died leaving the family of five children with so many debts that the family house had to be He attended the University

of Virginia until 1933 when the Great Depression forced him to work full-time and continue his degree in law by studying at

His first job was parking cars mindlessness, the irrationality, garage. He began his career in termed festival marketplaces".

1936 at a branch of Maryland mortgage office which he ran until 1939 before leaving to start his own firm. Moss-Rouse Company, financing single family homes. After the Second World War, which he served out as a lieutenant-commander in

cific, he expanded his husiness 10 finance shopping centres. By the late 1950s, Rouse was using his profits to develop the nation's first enclosed shopping centre - Mondawmin Mall Baltimore - coining the term "shopping mall", and thus created the multi-storey mall and food court.

In the 1970s, Rouse, described as an easy-going man with a rumpled appearance. who lived in a house overlooking one of Columbia's manmade lakes, turned his attention tn the inner cities which had been largely written off for commercial potential by

He envisioned the marriage of the suburban mall with the The first, the Faneuil Hall area in Boston, proved to be exactly what tourists and shoppers craved - a comforting ideal of a town square in the centre of an unfamiliar city.

Though critics charged that the development was too rut off the Naval Air Reserve in the Pafrom city life, Fanueil was credited with the renewal of Boston's waterfront, which soon led to the development of similar projects from Baltimore. Philadelphia and the South Street Seaport in New York to Sydney, Australia.

Throughout his career as head of the Rouse Company, one of America's most successful property development companies, he sought not just to make profits hut to improve the quality of civic life.

After retirement in 1979 he began what he called "by far the most important work" of his life. The Enterprise Foundation he established sought to provide people with low incomes with good, affordable housing and the opportunity to lift themmore vibrant life of a city street selves out of poverty into the in a dawntown Baltimore in self-contained areas he mainstream of American life.

people and had expanded its charter to organise training programmes, crime-prevention efforts and health-care. He held that helping neighbourhoods recover from years of neglect was not only a moral imperative but cheaper in the long run. "It's not enough to provide housing." Rouse said in 1991. "It's necessary to transform the neighbourhoods themselves." In presenting Rouse with the

granted \$1.7bn in loans and

grants to develop more than

61,000 homes for low-income

nation's highest civilian honour, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, last year President Bill Clinton hailed him as an American hero who helped "heal the toro-out heart" of America's cities. "James Rouse's life has been defined by faith in the American spirit," he said.

Edward Helmore

James Wilson Rouse, property developer: born Easton, Many land 26 April 1914; marries 1941 Elizabeth Winstead (one daughter, two sons), 1974 Patri cia Traugott; died Columbia By 1994 the foundation had Maryland 9 April 1996.

### **Audrey Nicholson**



cricket, especially her own county, and was absolutely delighted to discover that I had played (school) cricket against Mike Brearley, the son of Horace Brearley, who had himself played cricket for Yorkshire. Another Yorkshireman, the Poet Laureate, Ted Hughes, delighted her by sending a couple of bottles of sherry from the huge consignment he was given around the time he met the Queen of Spain. Her extended family was the community of poets she befriended and supported. These

included Ann Beresford and Michael Hamhurger, Judi Benson and Ken Smith, Peter Porter and Alan Brownjohn, Eddie Linden and Gavin Ewart. and their respective circles. She did an immease number of chores for several friends, for example the blind poet John Heath-Stubbs, whose amanuensis she was for a long time. and you could always rely on her

to turn up (with or without retinue) at a book launch or poctry reading - one more person could make a 10-per-cent difference to the audience on some occasions. And all for love. The life of the spirit, the life of the mind, was her ether.

But other-worldly she was not. Another practical trait which endeared her to smallpress publishers was her determination to promote poetry. She put her money where her mouth was. Out of her limited disposable income, Audrey Nicholson, who lived very sim-

**Peter Hollinson** 

Wales Echo, the three former

ply in east London, would order several copies of many books brought out by small presses, such as my own Menard Press, and give them to members of her large circle as presents - having often arranged for the author 10 sign the book. Small-press books can be unusual, beautiful, and good value for money: she had the discrimination to understand this, the passion to do something about it, and the generosity to

deliver (via the postman). The poetry gifts were intended to inform and educate. as well as give pleasure. In ber other life, as a schoolteacher in Dagenham and elsewhere, she would take children, in her own time and at her own expense, to theatres and concerts. Many of her friends received appropriate newspaper clippings, always with an affec-tionate message scribbled on the hoof. To mark birthdays or examination successes, she would send my son, and other teenagers, second-hand cricket books, like a favourite aunt, which she effectively was for

many young people. She was one of nature's go-

bring like-minded or likespirited people together, not least at her annual poets' cricket match where, for example, that unlikely cricket-lover, the hrilliant American surrealist prose poet Marvin Cohen, never gave the impression he was confusing our national sport with haseball.

She had been engaged to be married. Before, during and after the engagement, her devotion and love never ceased being directed towards her family and her many friends - and she was the virtual mother to her great-niece, Joanne (the only child present at the funeral), whose own mother had died tragically young. Audrey Nicholson undouhtedly had a great need to please, to give pleasure. On occasion this might embarrass the recipient who could never, in the nature of the contract, reciprocate to the same extent. But most of the time her generosity, innate, gracious and never-ending, was a source of wonder and a cause for gratitude.

She was a good soul, a gitte neshuma - as her prematurely

the transition to computer tech-

betweens, always seeking to deceased friend A.C. Jaco would have said in Yiddish hope I was not typical in son times taking her for granted, I I like to think that she knew! high esteem in which she v held in the poetry world. She ly before she died she asked the latest cricket score. It moot point whether poetr cricket mattered more. Now can argue the point ( point?) with Gavin Ewart. Here is an unpublis

"Classical Poem dedicate Audrey Nicholson" by Ci Ewart:

Here it comes, with love, to / This is her very just reward For years of trieadship and sut: A serious poem where the ris Must remind of olden times, of wit and wonder, as they of Orion, classical, huge and lc This was the price, this was ost Of rape of nymphs, in ancie

A Poussin picture, praised b.n. -Young giants, Diana led that! Known to the stars, not thece!

shire 15 July 1924; diedadon

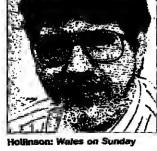
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Anthony dolf Audrey Nicholson, oolteucher: born RotherhaorkMps her allenes

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Peter Hollinson was a journalist of the old school, a fraternity which is diminishing with age. His many talents, ranging from work on the stone to motivaling hard-working reporters. were at the heart of a significant breakthrough in provincial newspaper publishing - the emergence of a Sunday title

which truly reflects the people and places it serves.

The launch of Wales on Sunday in 1989 was a brave venture not without risk, because of competition from national titles. As assistant editor Hollinson was at the sharp end and his suc-cessful efforts led to his ap-pointment as Editor in 1991. Under his leadership, the cir-culation of the Cardiff-based paper climbed steadily from worryingly low figures and now stands at more than 65,000. Many of the 30-odd awards won by the paper owe much to his skills and dedication.

Thomson regional newspaper titles owned since last year by Trinity International. Hollinson came into journalism at the age of 17 with three O levels. He was a trainec

s skills and dedication. on the Botton Evening News, and The paper is a stablemate of stints on the sub-editors' desks the Western Mail and the South of the Daily Mail in Manches-

ter and on the Sun in London led to a succession of production posts culminating in the demanding role of chief sub-editor on the Sunday Mirror, his last job before moving to Cardiff to launch Wales on Sunday.

He was hrought up in the days of hot-metal setting, an apprenticeship cherished by many

nology with consummate ease. Hollinson's hard work and enthusiasm at Wales on Sunday won the affection of his staff. Following his untimely death after a long battle against cancer, the broadcaster John Hum-phreys, who once worked on the

journalists. However he made Western Mail, said: him: Peter Hollinson wa rare combination of a tch journalist with a very hun side." Tr Heath

> Peter Hollinson, jourist: born 24 May 1945; mard Candy Clegg (two daughs): died Cardiff 8 April 1996

#### Births, **Marriages** & Deaths

DEATHS

BALLARD: E. Desmond, died 6 April 1996. Much-loved husband of Edua and loving father of Paul and Julian. and loving lather of Paul and Julian. Fineral at St Paul's URC, South Croy-don, on Monday 15 April 1996, at 11.15am. Family flowers only, dona-tions to Christian Aid.

Amountements for Gazette BIRTHS, MAR-RIAGES & DEATHS should be sear in writ-log to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, County Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at \$6.50 a line (VLT metro).

Forthcoming

marriages Mr N. Donaldson

and Miss S. Staughton The engagement is announced between Niall, son of Mr and Mrs Ian Donaldson, of Auchierarder, Perthshire, and Sarah, younger daughter of Sir Christopher and Lady Staughton, of Sarratt, Hert-fordshire.

Birthdays

Mr Alan Ayckbourn, playwright, 57; M Raymond Barre, economist and politician, 72; Mr lan Butler, former chairman, Cookson Group, 71; Miss Monserrat Caballé, operatic singer, 63; Mr David Cassidy, singer, 47; Mr

Brian Connell, writer and broad-caster, 80; Miss Elspei Gray, actress, 67; Mr Lionel Hampton, bandleader, 83; Mr Harry Hewilt, former chairman, Johnson Matthey, 76; The Right Rev John Hughes, former Bishop of Croydon, 88; Mr Liwe Kitzinger, former President, Tem-pleton College, Orford, 68; Mr pleton College, Oxford, 68; Mr

Hardy Kruger, actor, 68; The Earl of Limerick, chairman, Pirelli UK, 66; Mr Alfred Mabbs, archivist, 75; Mr Bryan Magee, writer, 66; Air Marshal Sir Harold Maguire, 84; Mr Eric Meade, chartered accountant, 73; Miss Ann Miller, actress and singer. 73: Mr George Robertson MR 50: Mrs Wendy Savage, obste-rician and gynaecologist, 61: Dr Kennedy Simmonds, prime minister, St Kitts-Nevis, 60; Miss Jane Withelist, 1983. On this day: the Union and Saraccoi, tom. ers, actress, 70.

Anniversaries Births: Edward Bird, painter, 1772:

John George Lambton, first Earl of Durham, Governor-General of Canada, 1792; Aleksandr Nikohyevich Ostrovsky, playwright, 1823; Edmond Audran, composer, 1840; James Louis Garvin, newspaper editor, 1868: Bobby Moore, footballer, 1941. Deaths: Niccolo Amari, violinmaker, 1684; Kaspar Merian, en-graver, 1684; William Kent, landscape gardener and architect, 1748; Dr Charles Burney, organist and music historian, 1814; Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 32nd US president, 1945; Antoine Pevsner, sculptor and painter, 1962; Josephine Baker, singer, 1975; Joe Louis (Joseph Louis Barrow), heavyweight Jack (Union Flag) was first adopted in England, 1606; the Taller was first published, 1709; Napoleoo Bona-parte defeated the Austrians and Sar-Victoria and Albert Museum: Gilly dinians at the Battle of Montenotte, 1796; the American Civil War began at the siege of Fort Sumter, South Carolina, 1861; the first manner space flight was made by the Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagaria. 1961;

the Columbia Space Shuttle went into

space, completing its mission two days later, 1981. Today is the Feast Day of St Allerius, St Julius L pope, St

\*Innocents Abroad (i): Guercino

Sahas the Goth and Others and St National Gallery: Colin Wiggins,

H. Gretton talks about her work, Tate Gallery: Richard Kendall, "Degas's Cezanne", Ipm.

Church appointments The following appointments have been announced by the Church of England:

The Rev Richard Arding, Curate, St Augus-tron, Bromley Common: to be Vicar, St Michael and All Angels, Wilmington (Rochester). The Rev Paul Bagshaw, Assistant Curate, St Mary Magdalene, Newark, Newark Team Ministry, to be Priest in charge, All Hallows, Orden and St Alban's Retford (Southwell). The Period Orden and St. Albary, Rethern (Southwell). The Rev Bran Cook, Rector, St. Mary, Las (Portsmeuth) to be also an Homoray Canon of Portsmeuth Cathedral The Rev Andrew Downsell, Carate, All Solats, Childwall (Eiserpool): to be Carate, St. Andrew, Leviand (Birckburn).

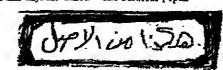
The Rev Graham Dodds, Rector, Buth Walcot: to be Lay Training Advaser and Director
of Reader Studies (Bath and Wells).
The Rev Ian Grocking, Assistant Curate, the
Dorean Church, Swandon (Brass); to be Team
Viear, Langley Martish Team Ministry, with responsibility for St Franca i Ordind).
The Rev Clare Herbert: to be Assistant Curate. St Martin in the Fields (London).
The Rev Tony Lynas, Viear, St James, New
Brighton, Walfasey: to be Rector, Holy Trinity, Tarleton (Buckburn).
The Rev Duncan Linds-Ismas Curate Control

ity. Tarleton i Blackbarn).
The Rev Duncan Lloyd-James, Carate, Christ Church, St. Lexonats on-Sea: now Carate, Roctingdean (Chichester).
The Res Andrew Manson-Brailsford, Corate, Tornasolme, i Blackburg, to be Vicar. St. George, Brighton (Chichester).
The Rev James Rhodes-Wrigley; now Carate (NSM), Whyke with Rumboldswhyke and Purtfaeld (Chichester).
The Rev Elec. in Routh, Vicar. Woodnesborough with Worth and Scaples to be Vicar, Maidstone St. Martin (Canterbury).
The Rev Bill Sanders, Priest-in-charge, St Bridge. Thomas, Wavertree (Leverproit)

The Rev Richard Thom now Curate (NSM), Stansted and Forede. The Rev Nigel Venning, Rev, Snaplegrove: to be also Rural Dean of Inton (Bath and Wella). Wells).

The Rev Penny West, Va Kenstoke and Welk St Lawrence; to be on Prehendary of Welk Cathedral (Bathd Welk). The Rev Mouro Wicker Parish Dencon (NSM), Bied Kenish Welk). The Rev Mouro Wicker Parish Dencon, Saltdean (Chicheste The Rev Kerith Wood, Vr., St John the Divine, West Workings to buctor, Winchelsen and Indiestham (Chichest). The Rev Robert Wright, ear, St Mary, Portsea (Portumouth): to balso an Hostorary Camon of Portumouth) to balso an Hostorary

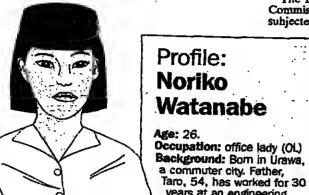
Changing of the Juard The Household Carry Mounted Regi-ment mounts the Quar's Life Guard at Horse Guarda, 11 an 1st Batralion Welsh Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Pulae 11, 30am, band provided by the Grenzier Guards.



The Japanese corporate success story hides an old-fashioned attitude to women in the workplace, writes Peter Popham

## s sexism an Asian value?





years at an engineering company: now middle manager. Her parents met through an arranged marriage. Mother, Setsuko, retired as an OL when she became engaged. Education: High school followed by a European history course at a local college. Spent three years partying and shopping in .

Tokyo.

Job: Works for Nandemo Corporation in Tokyo, a prestigious posting for an

Attire: Like nearly all the women in her company, wears the OL uniform all

**Duties:** Makes coffee and tea and empties ashtrays as well as. typing, filing and photocopying. When guests arrive Noriko meets them, bowing deeply with words of welcome in a high pitched voice. Her boss is an old fool, but she knows how to manipulate him. The younger daputy section

manager calls her stupid and squeezes past her when she's at the photocopier. Leisure: Lives in Urawa with her parents. Has lots of disposable Income. Prospects: None, in her career. Chances of earning as much as her male practically nil. On getting married she will probably stop work and will certainly do so when she has children. She may never, after then, return to the workforce. Her mother is encouraging her to many a salary man working with a large company.

Just as we were poised to discard the Victorian values thrust on us by Mrs Thatcher and embrace instead the "Asian values" expounded by Chris Patten, David Howell, and at times it seems Tony Blair, a timely note of warning has been sounded. From the promisingly named town of Normal, Illinois, comes news that some 700 women employees at Mitsuhishi Motor Company's plant there are to sue the giant Japanese company for sexual harassment - or seku-hara as it is called in Japaoese.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission says that the women were subjected to a "hostile and ahusive work

environment", involving groping and fondling, lewd graffiti and obscene remarks. The vice-chairman of the Commission, Paul Igasaki, said, "This case should send the strongest message that sexual harassment ... will not be toler-

While those accused of the harassment were apparently Americans working on the assembly line, the commission noted the activity could not have gone on without the knowledge and consent ... of the manage-

The events in Normal may be entirely abnormal, a freak consequence of loss of management control. But taken in tandem with the case of the City trader Helen Bamber, who a fortnight ago won £100,000 from her former employer Fuji International, for sexually discriminating against her, they raise the question: if Asian values are so great, why do companies that embody them treat their female

employees this way? Helen Bamber joined Fuji International in 1986, and her tale of woe hegan the following year, when during a business trip to Scandinavia, her boss made sexual advances to her . On the plane back to London he suggested that she resign; she declined, but although subsequently she made huge profits for Fuji - more than £330,000 in 1988, for example - she was given derisory bonuses and "treated less favourably on the ground of her sex", as the tribunal put it, in numerous other ways.

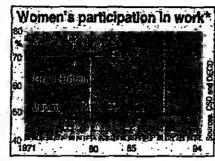
Resigning in 1994 she sued for sexual discrimination and won last November. offence by refusing to negotiate compensation instead accusing her of trying to extort money from the company. In their ruling, the tri-bunal panel declared that the bank had been guilty of "malevolence, spite, malice, msolence, arrogance", and of actions intended to "humiliate, intimidate and cause distress to the appli-

Howell (for years also a columnist with the Japan Times) has said that "these countries [of East and South-east Asia] are not just richer but also more stable and in many ways more moral than we are." Are Mitsubishi and Fuji - two mammoths at the heart of Japan's industrial machine - grotesque

exceptions to Howell's rule? The difference between Victorian and Asian values is that with the former we can do no more than read Trollope and George Eliot and Dickens and screw up our eyes and do our best to imagine what it must have been like. With Asian values, however, we can, like Helen Bamher, opt for total immersion. And when we do, we

can, like her, get a nasty shock.

Ideas unthinkable in a normal British company are freely expressed. A female



colleague of Helen Bamber was told that her relatively low pay was instified because "she was a girl". Another woman asked for time off to take some exams: her boss refused, saying he didn't understand why she wanted these qualifications, and that she would be better off staying at home like a housewife, washing dishes.

Sources in the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, which has heen the most successful in winning agreements with Japanese companies. concede that managers can take some time in adjusting to the "equality culture" of Western Europe.

According to the official one newlyarrived Japanese personnel specialist at a plant hased in south Wales wanted to stop female production workers taking sick leave because of period pains. Welsh managers persuaded him that it was not a good idea to devise individual absence eharts, to he posted publicly in the factory, which might reveal a monthly cycle.
The AEEU and other unions however

are oot keen to make an issue of any lack of commitment to equal opportunites for fear of alienating Japanese business. Neanderthal as such attitudes seem.

they would probably have received a nod of understanding if not not frank endorsement from the vast majority of Japanese "sararimen" (salaried employees). As Bonnie Williams, born and raised in Japan and a consultant to Japanese businesses explains, "Most Japanese men have trouble understanding why women vant to leave the k go out to work. In Japan it still doesn't happen: women don't need to go out to work to support their families - in the boom years of the late Eighties it began to happen, but since the recession it has

stopped again.
"Women are excluded from the core of the workforce: Japanese men do not expect Japanese women to have career aspirations and 80 per cent of women don't seem to care a fig about careers. Others dispute that the numbers of

women content with their lot is quite that

The former Tory cabinet minister David high: the passion Japanese mothers direct lowell (for years also a columnist with the at getting their children to shine in exams ests that for many of them this is the only outlet they can find for energies frustrated professionally. When foreign companies opened Tokyo offices in the early Eighties, there was a rush of highly qualified young Japanese women to work in environments where their talents would be rewarded.

Banks and car companies are bastions of male exclusivity - hut firms in areas such as media offer more opportunities for women to do well. But here, too, the pay may be worse and the status part-time, even if they work around the clock.

And whatever the company, the foreigner is perennially on the outside. A British woman who has worked for several years for a Japanese TV company in London says, "There are three genders in our office: Japanese men, Japanese women, and foreigners." She used to combat this by smoking and drinking at the same furious rate as her Japanese male colleagues in their after-hours sessions, and as a result found herself to some extent inside the loop. She says: "If you want to know what's going on in the company, you simply have to hang around with them after hours. It's a form of cultural fascism."

In a lecture given on Wednesday, Chris Patten declared that the "principal components" of Asian success were "ambition, economic liberty and free trade". Not much controversy there. But Mr Patten knows that what is also meant by "Asian values" are the less palpable, more emotional attributes: strong families, social cohesion, harmony, the superior morality cited by David Howell.

As Heien Bamber and other female employees of Japanese companies have discovered, however, to the extent that these attributes are real at all, they are highly culture-specific, They are not there for the picking. And foreigners - female foreigners in particular - need oot apply.

Additional reporting by Barrie Clement and Anna Davies.



Background: Bom in Woking, Surrey. Her parents divorced when she was five. Her 56-year-old father, remarried with a second family, has been self-employed since being made redundant in the early Eighties. Alison's mother, Elaine, 50, works part-time in a local

Education: After getting nine GCSEs and three A-levels, she took a year out before university, where she studied hard for her business and finance degree. Job: Finding work was hard. After an Intensive secretarial

agency. She eventually moved to a junior executive position in another company. Attire: Wears a suit to meet clients, but most of the time dresses casually.

her own paperwork and would never do paperwork for a male colleague. Frequently works more than 10 hours a day but is ambitious and wants to move on. Gets fed up with the low-level sexism of the middle-aged youths in the

Leisure: Alison lives with friends in a shared flat, likes trekking holidays and is a regular at the gym. Prospects: Good. By her thirties she wants her own flat . and car. Has a boyfriend but enjoys her independence and wouldn't consider marriage and children until she is past 30, and would return to work thereafter.



## M DIARY

#### By 'eck, Ginny drops her aitches

An heritage secretary uses a h-word. Is Virginia Bottomley (helow) living up to the highest precepts of her cahinet post and safeguarding our lin-guistic heritage, or is she starting



an academic controversy? Opening the Hotel this week, Mrs Bottomley. who has tourism in her portfolio, said: "Now Alton Towers is the first theme park in the UK to hulld an

It would seem that she is the only member of the Cahinet to use "an before an h-word; and it could, with luck, become an idiosyncrasy to rival the Prime Minister's disdain for the boring word "want" when it sounds so much

more individualistic as "wunt". The Chambers Guide to Grammar and Usage: "the h-less (or virtually hless) pronunciation, while not common and now rather old fashiooed, is not wrong.... The simple rule is to make the choice between a and an match your own pronunciation of such h-words."

Nicholas Gisborne, English language adviser to the faculty of English at the University of Cambridge, says his own father uses the phrase an hotel, but he would not expect anyone under 40 to be familiar with it. "It is entirely optional but an hotel is stylistically marked as being more formal and has a use restricted to the older generation," he says. A tricky one for Mrs Bottomley: delight the cam-paigners for traditional English but risk newildering the younger voter.

#### When fact is stranger than pulp fiction

My story yesterday of Italy allowing Joung children to see the violent movie

cantionary tale has an echo on these The indefatigable charmer, Michael Winner (he of the seduction technique

"Come on, let's get a move on") also believes violent movies serve a social purpose. Of his Death Wish films. which have shown women being violently attacked, he says: "It doesn't mean you're saying 'Go out and attack women.' You're saying: This is awful, so protect yourself."

All these well-meaning moralists

we never realised.

#### A brush-off for the Turner Prize?

I am sorry to learn that Waldemar Januszczak, Channel 4's commissioning editor for music and arts, is not having his contract renewed by Stuart Cosgrove, the new controller of arts and entertainment, following an outbreak of

The windows of the

Sarah sells her soul for a hat collection

It's long been a mys-tery why fashion-houses choose only vactous supermodels to display their col-lections and ignore the far more lithe and sensious bodies of leading dancers. The Royal Ballet, with stars such as Spivis Guillem and Dancey. Bussell, could carn a pretty pentry on the side by hirrog out their dancers. I'm pleased to see that the company's history star Sarah Wilder is already spreading her sartorial wings Designers dance in Manage, and are using her launch a new collect. Bermona saw h tion of extravagent hat creations.

Bermona's managing director, fature.

Anderson, a superson of white says of Wildon Size saying that the saying the saying that the saying the saying the saying the saying that the saying the saying

Pulp Fiction because they regard it as a making cautionary tale movies, and artistic differences between the two men. The loss of Januszczak will be mourned in the Tate Gallery, which has been able to rely on him to ensure not only Channel 4's sponsorship of the Turner Prize, but abrasive defences of the avant-garde artists involved (and even more abrasive attacks on their detractors) in his other role as a newspaper art critic. It will be interesting to see whether Channel 4's sponsorship of the prize survives Januszczak's depar-ture; and if it does, whether the broadcasters will improve on last year's coverage - which managed to finish just before the announcement of the winner. a piece of avant-garde performance art in its own right.

#### Master of suspense gets into real estate

Jose Macicior, a Spanish-born antiques dealer, has found a way of selling his flat in the Cromwell Road, west London, without hav-

ing to pay a percentage to an estate agent. Just as he was about to put the flat on the market, a Japanese film company informed him that

it was once owned by the film direc tor, Alfred Hitchcock (above). Mr Macicior, who had hitherto been maware of this, has enterprisingly invited film magazines to come and write about the £105,000 flat, whose post-Hitchcock discovery price might be a little higher, and put the owner's name and phone number in their articles. No estate agent has been employed. So here we go. Yes, it has a rear window; with five flights of stairs, prospective huyers might suffer from vertigo; there is no shortage of hird life in the area; oh and watch yourself in the shower.

**Eagle Eye** 

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## Mr Blair goes to Washington

House lawn. Tony Blair could offer his opponents a master class in political campanology. From religion to Wall Street he has been ringing the Tories bells. Now he visits the Oval Office to summon up another vision of responsible power-in-waiting. Funds are safe with Labour, defence is safe with Labour, the Atlantic partnership is safe with Labour.

This was a trip - Mr Blair's first official visit to the United States - that had to be made. Several birds have been killed in a single visit. The connection - rather spurious, truth to tell - between the Clinton Democrats and new Labour is affirmed. More important, Tony Blair has anticipated a flight of capital amid market turnoil after a Labour victory by addressing the likes of George Soros. During the visit he gets assessed by the spooks and the joint chiefs, for Britain is still the principal nuclear partner of the United States and Tony Blair's finger may soon be near what is left of the hutton. It is hard to see, on all these counts, how his performance could have been better.

He has used the visit deftly to pour messages home aimed squarely at the Tory heartland of middle-Britain. While he is in the US making friends with an administration that has at best a formal relationship with Mr Major and his team, Mr Blair has the temerity to use the trip to march further into Tory territory. It marks a return to fully confident form after the uncertainty that crept into his performance after the

Harriet Harman-school choice affair. On top of fiscal moderation and party modernisation we have a pitch to the middle managers of middle Britain. This was Mr Blair's domestic audience: not well paid but with some of their income taxed at the top rate, their ranks include some

Last night cocktails in Georgetown: teachers and police officers. Without making any specific pledges Mr Blair is making any specific pledges Mr Blair is attempting to identify with middle Britain's concerns and aspirations. He is undeniably effective. Labour's opponents are kept off balance and the party gains time to build a reputation for respectability and trustworthiness before it unveils any specific pledges or proposals on tax

that might frighten off the middle classes. It was significant that Mr Blair chose to do all this in the US, a further signal of Labour's acceptance of the tradition of the Atlantic alliance. It is a rite of passage that aspirant prime ministers have to go through and which Neil Kinnock, for one, failed. Yet if there was one shadow over his triumphant progress through the corridors of power on the east coast it was this; why has be not done something similar in Bonn, Brussels and Paris?

If Labour is a truly modernising party then it must modernise Britain's view of its role in the world. That can only mean one thing: to find a more settled and productive role within Europe. A trip to the US is important. It is not just theatre. But working out our relations with Europe is far more difficult and far more important in the long run. Finance ministers sit down today together in Verona for further difficult talks on a European single currency, the subject that would surely dominate the middle years of a Blair administration. Yet on this issue Labour still holds its tongue.

Britain's future is European. A future leader of Britain with progressive inclinations ought, to be sure, to make his peace with the US and its capital markets. But his heart and mind ought long since to have been absorbed by Britain's stake, in the European project for union and integration. A visit to Washington is the easy part: his trips to Bonn, Paris and Brussels will be less showbusiness and much barder.

## Time to get tough with Gibraltar

L Felipe Gonzulez, once called Gibraltar "a stone in Spain's sboe". This vivid image contains an essential truth that has been brought out once again this week by a deplorable incident involving the gangs of smugglers who operate around Morocco. Gibraltar and the southern coast of Spain.

A Spanish Civil Guard policeman was killed after his helicopter crasbed into the sea while it was chasing a Gibraltar-registered speedhoal with three suspected smugglers on board. One of the trio, who was later arrested, is a Gihraltar resident. About half a tonne of hashish, destined for Spain, was found on his boat.

If, as seems likely, it is established that the helicopter crashed because it was fired on from the speedboat, a situation may arise in which a drug-trafficking resident of a British crown colony, claimed by Madrid as Spanish territory, is charged with the murder of a Spanish policeman. This will obviously inflict damage on Britain's relations with Spain, a major European Union partner, at just the time when this country badly needs a better image in the EU.

The rights and wrongs of Britain's disputed sovereignty over Gibraltar are not the central issue. The immediate question is why Gibraltar's chief minister. Joe Bossano, and his government are failing to suppress the tobacco- and drug-smug-gling gangs that are poisoning British-Spanisb relations.

Today we have the final extract from the current High Court trial in which Mr Sidney Delba stands

accused of leaving his car for more than

two years in a parking space marked "DISABLED ONLY", thus incurring

over 6,000 separate finable offences. He

has pleaded not guilty owing to dyslexia. Nobody in the court has the faintest

Counsel: May I first apologise for the

lateness of my arrival in court this

Counsel: Yes. There was a car parked

in my reserved space. A blue BMW....

Defendant: I think that must have

Counsel: The space is clearly marked

Defendant: It did not say who it was

reserved for. I thought there was a

Judge: May we please get on with this case as fast as possible? I have a

weekly appointment with my

masseuse and correction teacher at

Counsel: Yes, m'lud. Now, Mr Sidnev

Delba, we bave come to the moment

when at last you will tell the court how

you justify leaving your car for two

years in a space clearly marked "DIS-

ABLED ONLY". You have said that

chance it might be for me.

idea what he is talking about.

Judge: Do you have an excuse?

afternoon, my lord....

been mine.

"Reserved".

rctary. Douglas Hurd, bad to crack the whip and warn Mr Bossano that Britain might impose measures leading to direct rule of Gibraltar unless the local government got tough with the smugglers. For a while, it appeared that Mr Bossano had taken the message to heart. The authorities confiscated all but 12 of the 64 fast launches operating out of Gibraltar's harbour. The smuggling problem became less acute, and Spanish officials privately made clear their pleasure with what looked like decisive action instigated by

John Major's government. It seems now we are back to square one. The smugglers are regaining their confidence, and the Gibraltar government appears at a loss what to do. It is not entirely the fault of Mr Bossano and his colleagues. They should certainly do more to stamp out the drug-trafficking from Morocco, but they face a genuine dilemma: the health of Gibraltar's economy is intimately connected with the activities of smugglers, especially of tobacco.

The answer must be for the government in London, be it Tory or Labour, to take firm steps over the next few years to help the Gibraltar authorities clamp down on drug-trafficking and clean up the local economy. Britain's relations with Spain must not be held hostage to criminal gangs. The first step must be for London to reiterate and if necessary implement the threats of intervention that it made

MILES KINGTON

it was all due to dyslexia. Will you tell

us how?

Defendant: Certainly. My dyslexic

handicap takes the form of a tendency

to reverse letters, or groups of letters.

Counsel: You mean, if I had an OBE, you would think I had an EBO?

Defendant: Yes. Of course, this does

Counsel: I beg your pardon?

Defendant: The French have a tendency to reverse their initials anyway.

The Communist Party in France is the

Parti Communiste, which shortens to the PC, which is the opposite of our

CP. What we call Nato is known in

France as Otan. My form of dyslexia

tends to turn that back to front, so I

read the French word Otan as Nato. Indge: I fail to see what this bas got

to do with parking in a space reserved

Defendant: Everything, my lord. You see, if you reverse my first name Sid,

for disabled people.

not matter so much in France...

Backed up by the letter of the law

moment.

wards too?



#### - LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -

## Taxpayers should be happy to subsidise the unemployed | Fighting for the CPS

"for a grown-up dehate on solutions to mass unemployment" (9 April). However, the solution he prefers of subsidising jobs for the long-term unemployed does not come near to addressing the long-term problem: the techno-logical revolution is destroying johs; increasing globalisation means that a growing percentage of work that remains will find its

way to low-wage economies. It is now sadly clear that the vision we bad some decades ago of a four-day week and more leisure time for all is a myth only realisable in a benevolent dictatorship - in practice there will be an increasing number working for long hours and little pay servic-ing the few who are also working long hours, but for a lot of pay.

But even with growing wealth there will not be enough service we need to change our attitude to employment. Instead of despising those who do not want to work, should we not be gratcful that there are some who are happy to lead their life

Should we not be encouraging the "drop-outs", be happy that they are willing to live on a min-

Sir: I could not agree more with imum income, and not begrudge who would much prefer to have John Philpott that there is a need the fact that, as taxpayers, we are subsidising them?

JANET FALUSH London SW13

Sir: John Philpott and the Employment Policy Institute have heen offering sane solutions to the problem of unemployment for a decade and a balf, so far with limited success. Even so, we need more than just the expansion of schemes for the long-term unem-ployed, valuable as they are. Dr Philpott presents job cre-

ation subsidies and work-sharing measures as alternatives. The Gli Amici group of personnel professionals sees them as complementary measures. A job creation subsidy, paid to existing employers in the private and public sectors, would be paid for additional jobs. This would be for extra jobs, not for taking on only

These additional jobs could be created by expanding business, but they could also be created by work-sharing measures. Technological advance ought to give working people the benefit of more leisure, but at the moment we do not share leisure equitably: we give it all to the unemployed,

less of it. At present, the whole empha-

sis is on the short-term gains to be had from redundancies and other cost-cutting measures. This, merely transfers the problem from the company to the state. It should only be the last resort of any company which bas any regard for the long-term interests of the community. We need a new emphasis on expanding activities to make productive use of surplus

employees and on sharing the gains from technological advice. DAVID BELL Ware. Hertfordshire

Sir: John Philpott's excellent article gives credit to the late Professor James Meade's economic view that demand should be sustained in the economy to ensure full employment. But he fails to tell his readers that Meade also consisof a Citizen's Income (or social dividend) which Philpott dismisses.

Indeed, in a pamphlet Fifteen Propositions (published in 1993 by The Employment Policy Institute of which Mr Philpott is director), Meade saw a Citizen's Income serving three purposes: (1) It relieves poverty by guaranteeing for every citizen a sufficient Minimum Acceptable Level of income. (2) It does so without destroying incentives to work if it is not withdrawn as the citizen earns other income. (3) It provides a universal supplement

to carnings which is aimed at jus-

tifving any restriction of rates of pay which is needed to ensure full employment. Professor Meade added: ... the necessary condition for the implied downward flexibility in wage rates is the provision of some alternative source of stable income for all citizens which

does not depend on the amount of work done. Quite rightly, Mr Philpott dis-misses some of the more specious noticies which are now advocated. astaires for mass unemployment. There will inevitably be a "cost" for a return to full employment. But it is not without significance the case for a Citizen's Income. Indeed, in his last book "Full Employment Regained?" published just before his death, he had again

returned to the argument.

that can be statistically chal-

lenged - 50 per cent of society

believe in the resurrection of

Christ hut the main point is that

it is good to see where our politi-

cians are coming from, and it is

great to find anyone willing from

any party to try to relate the best

in Western religion to political life. Without that we are faced

with a moral vacuum and politi-

The Rev Charles Brock

Director of Ministerial

Training and Chaplain Mansfield College

cal vacuousness

RICHARD CLEMENTS Director Citizen's Income Trust London WC2

Sir. Polly Toynbee ("Barristers: a law unto themselves", 10 April) doubts my commitment to achieving rights of audience for CPS lawyers in the higher courts.

On the day that I was appointed Director of Public Prosecutions in April 1992, I said in my first public statement that "I will continue to fight vigorously for rights of andience for CPS lawyers. After all, I bave lost my own rights of audience." My views were widely reported and are certainly familiar to all in the

legal profession.

Neither my views nor my commitment to achieving those rights have altered. I have put our case. at every suitable opportunity, including written and oral submissions to the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Legal Education and Conduct on sevtinue to do so.

BARBARA MILLS, QC. ... Director of Public Prosecutions Head of the Crown Prosecution Service London EC4

Sir: I congratulate Polly Toynbee in exposing the restrictive practices which continue lo protect the Bar and shield it from healthy competition.

The most significant beneficiaries of these practices are the QCs themselves. Once a year, after a mysterious process of consultation, the Lord Chancellor, a barrister and QC, appoint about 60 barristers to the position of Queen's Counsel. This enables those lucky individuals to double or treble their income often for undertaking less work. This is simply because by tradition the Bar and the judiciary insist that QCs are instructed in the most complex or weighty cases. The whole system is no more than the manipulation of a market which ensures that the supply of senior barristers does not exceed the

demand for their services.

If their inflated fees were funded solely by wealthy litigants then it would not perhaps be a matter for public concern. How-ever that is not the case: more often than not their fees are funded by the public purse, either through the legal aid system or by the Crown Prosecution Service If this "Spanish Practice" were to exist m any other industry it would have been outlawed long ago. ANGUS ANDREW

Senior Partner Osbornes Solicitors London NWI

#### Away with the AA

Sir: I assume that John Coe (Letters, 10 April) does not belong to the AA. However, there may well be those who do and who agree with him about not having any means of influencing that organisation's pronouncements. There is an alternative: join another motoring organisation that sticks to its "proper function of helping motorists in trouble". EDWARD GLYNN

Shepperton.
Middlesex

...

#### Northward bound

Sir: Would your correspondent (IO April) not bave a better view of the world - and maps - if he drove not up and down from Scotland to Hampshire but south and north?

RAYMOND COOPER Ludwell, Dorset

#### Supporting the rule of law at Newbury

Sir: The anti-road protesters have not only lost direction in their "Third Battle of Newbury" - they chose completely the wrong site for their protest (leading article.

5 April). The case for the hypass is overwhelming the congestion on the A34 at Newbury is the one obstacle to a clear run from Scotland to the south of Spain. It is not just the people of Newbury who want the bypass, in order to reduce pollution in the area and ease local traffic problems, but all those who use this major route.

What is most alarming about the whole sorry affair is that by employing a full-time organiser and with the ability to use all the modern methods of communication, a small group can so rapidly promote a campaign against a

you get Dis. If you reverse my sur-

name, Delha, you get Abled. There-

fore, on account of my disability, I am condemned to read the word Dis-

abled as my own name. Therefore,

when I see a sign seeing DISABLED,

whereas the rest of you read this as

DISABLED, I read it as SID DELBA

Judge: Good heavens. How extraor-

dinary. Is that really true? Let me

spell your name backwards ... Yes ...

Dis Abled ... Sid Delba ... Just a

Judge: What about signs that read DISABLED ONLY, like the onc

where you left your car for two years?

Presumably you read ONLY back-

Judge: So what did you make of the word YLNO? When it said, 10 your

dyslexic eyes, YLNO SID DELBA,

what did you think YLNO meant? Defendant: I assumed it was some

meaningless Welsh word, my lord, or

perhaps the initials of some organi-

Judge: Nonsensel What could YLNO

Defendant: Well, perhaps for Young Liberals Numismatic Organisation. Or for the Yachting League Nord-Ouest. Or maybe something Jewish ...

and I feel I bave to park there.

Defendant: Yes, m'lud?

Defendant: Yes, I do.

sation unknown to me.

possibly stand for?

project supported by all parties, local and national, which resulted from 14 years of consultation, inquiry and investigation according to true democratic process. Are we to be ruled by government and law or by the outcome of a conflict between professional protesters on the one hand and hired security guards on the other, a conflict promoted by the exploitation of the media by

a single issue group?

While regretful of the extra
cost caused by the protesters, we should all be thankful that under the cheerful, firm and courteous direction of the Under-Sheriff of Berkshire the first stage of the hypass has been successfully

Judge: Jewish? Defendant: Perhaps the Yiddish Lan-

guage Normalisation Office.

Judge: Never mind about that!

want to come back to your name, Mr

Delba. I just find it a very remarkable

coincidence that your name is Dis-

abled spelt back to front. A VERY

remarkable coincidence. A VERY

remarkable coincidence indeed. Was

it not lucky that you received this

name to Sid Delba by deed poli!

Defendant: Previously my name had

Judge: De Vreser? Is that a sort of Dutch name?

Judge: But it also spells "Reserved" backwards, does it not?

Judge: So you went through a period

of your life when you could park in

spaces marked Reserved, claiming

that because of your dyslexia you had

read it as your name?
Defendant: Well, yes ...
The case continues, though not, you will

Defendant: Sort of, my lord.

Defendant: I believe it does.

be glad to hear, in this space.

name at birth?

Defendant: Yes.

Counsel: From what?

heen Mr de Vreser.

Mrs Mary E C Rich Thatcham, Berkshire

But even worse is your assump

#### Queries for Clwyd insurers

Sir: It is not clear exactly what Clwyd County Council's insurers objections to the council publishing the independent report into its children's homes are (report, 5 April).

Do the insurers claim that publishing it would breach the terms of the insurance contract, and so invalidate any claim connected with the contents? If so, cannot the council go to the courts and seek a declaratory judgment on this point? I find it difficult to imagine a court holding that the act of being open and honest could invalidate an otherwise legitimate claim. Or are the insurers saying "publish this and we

Defendant: This was not my name to begin with, m'lud. I changed my will not insure you again"?
K HAGGETT name five years ago.

Counsel: Aha! You changed your

#### True humanity

Sir; I know that I can rely on the Independent. Thank you for publishing Fergal Keane's letters to his father and son (9 April). It is so rare to get a true piece of humanity in a world that so often just seems to spin faster and become more cruel and harder to bear. KENNEDY WILSON Edinburgh

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@ independent.co.uk! Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

#### The value of religion in political life

Sir. All Western religious people Jews, Christians, Muslims - are called to serve in politics, and they know full well they can never live up to their founders' ideals ("Anyone can play Bible games", 8 April). That should not stop them from getting their hands dirty and this happens to professional religionists just as much. Instead of your perfectionist carpings. they need our understanding.

tion that Tony Blair shouldn't play the Christian card because of the majority who are young, faithless and sceptical". Even

#### Life and death on the open road

Sir: On Good Friday, faced with the inevitable grid-lock on the M25, M1, A1 and M6, my partner and I drove the length of England on two and three digit A roads and B roads. It took (possibly) longer than using the arterial system but en route we enjoyed wonderful countryside, pretty villages, interesting towns, friendly pubs and clean, efficient Little Chefs. There was hardly any congestion, we were relaxed and thoroughly relished the feeling of explorer reliving those halcyon days of open-road motoring.

If you bave the time, and

don't have a caravan, stay away from the jams and enjoy our country. NICHOLAS GREGORY

Haywards Heath.

Sir: Spring is celebrated in poetry, prose and cliche as a time for new life. However, as can be seen from walking down many roads in our countryside, it seems to be better described as a time of death and destruction.

Every morning, on quiet roads, many residential, in and around any country town can be found hundreds of corpses of hadgers. stoats, rabbits, frogs and toads, all exterminated by cars.

With a little more care from motorists I am sure that this annual slaughter of our native wildlife could be curbed. GEORGETTE IRONSIDE Hertford

## Why Britain would fare better on the fringe

The gentlemen (and women) of Verona meet today to discuss the future relationship between the "ins" and "outs" of European Monetary Union. It is billed as an informal meeting of the EU finance ministers and central bank governors to talk about ideas rather than make decisions, but in the run-up it has already been presented with headlines such as "Clarke's new euro battle" and "Britain faces ERM threat". Even allowing for headline-writers' hyper-

bole, zummat is clearly up. There are, I think, two stories run-ning in parallel. The first concerns the practical need for the planners at the European Monetary Institute, Europe's embryonic central bank, to think about the relationship between countries that will sign up for a com-

mon currency and those that will not.
The EMI itself will have both groups as members, for it is a body set up by all EU countries and no one is suggesting that all its members would participate in the single currency on day one. So mevitably, assuming that the single currency does go ahead, there will be one set of EMI members hat will be subject to its monetary decisions and another that will not. All sorts of questions arise, most obviously, whether the outsiders should have any role in forming EMI policy

As ministers meet to discuss monetary union, a parallel, less benign agenda is emerging at all, and whether the EMI should have any role in forming the outsiders' might seem remote. But if the discussions this weekend head in the monetary policy. In put it at its low-est, it would be helpful to have a reasonable degree of co-operation between the two groups of members: currency and interest-rate instability is in no one's interests.

But there is another and less agreeable tale, which those headlines reflect. It is the extent to which the outsiders can be compelled to run similar economic and monetary policies to the insiders, so that the countries which have retained their own currencies do not gain any competitive advantage by being able to devalue against the euro. In its most extreme form, the case has been made for imposing trade sanctions against countries that deliberately devalued their currencies in this way.

This raises a real possibility that country such as Britain, which chose to retain its own currency and which did not agree to follow the monetary and fiscal policies decided by the EMI, might be faced with a set of circumstances that made it difficult to remain within the European

less benign of the two directions noted above, both this government and the opposition should be doing some contingency planning. We are talking about a set of institutional changes that will, on present schedules, take place during the life of the next British parliament. So to look at the sums to see the pluses and the minuses in terms of Britain's economic self-interest of remaining or not remaining within the EU, is not at all to argue the case for leaving. Rather it is to say that it is irre-sponsible of governments – and serious-minded oppositions – not to consider possibilities which they hope will not occur, but which must

be recognised as real.
Put it this way: the possibility of British manufactured exports facing trade barriers in Europe at some time in the next five years must be at least as large as the possibility in 1991 that British beef exports would be completely hanned from the European market this year.

So how do the numbers stack up? There are three main areas: the At the moment that possibility UK's budgetary position with the



Britain has been the largest recipient of inward investment

EU; our present trade relations; and the dynamic impact on the shape of the UK economy.

Britain's taxpayers pay each year rather more than £2bn to cover the cost of running the EU bureaucracy and to give to other EU member countries. On an annual basis that is not enormous - it is equivalent to a penny on income tax, or all the revenue from vehicle excise duty, hut it adds up. A quick tally of the total net or increase public spending here, but because we have paid it overseas our foreign assets would be higher than they are at present, and so we would have a larger flow of income from A further balance of payments

advantage would be that Britain could buy food imports at world prices rather than at EU prices, so both our import bill and our food prices would be lower. It is difficult to put a quick number on the saving, and UK farmers would presumably still require similar subsidies to those they receive as part of the common agricultural policy, but there is no doubt that UK food prices would be lower, closer to those nf, say, the US

or Australia than to, say, France. If this first effect of leaving the EU would be wholly positive, the same cannot be said fur the other two. It is perfectly possible to export into the EU from outside in Europe: Sweden and Austria have done so very successfully, and Switzerland has and will continue to do so. Trade is protected under the Gatt and the

payment to Brussels since 1984 small tariffs that might be imposed comes to £19bn. Not only would that money be available either to cut taxes case the EU has a visible trade surplus with Britain running at around £4bn a year: we are a better export market for them than they are for us. So it would be unwise of EU countries to jeopardise access to the British market by imposing trade barriers on British exports to the EU. Reason would dictate that the

free transfer of goods should con-

Nevertheless it would be naïve to suppose that things would go on just as before. There would not he any immediate trade catastrophe, despite the fact that more than half our physical exports go to the EU, but there would be longer-term costs. In particular inward investment into the UK would be threatened. Over the last decade Britain has been the largest recipient in the EU of inward investment, with nearly 40 per cent of the total. Still, France has recently overtaken the UK, which shows that this position as Europe's favourite base for new manufacturing enterprises is by no means secure. Losing inward investment would be deeply damaging, for

it brings expertise and access to mar-kets as well as funds.

It is this final effect, the dynamic impact on commercial confidence, that should worry a future govern-ment most. The greater the hostility surrounding the ejection, or resignation, from the EU, the greater the economic costs. One can make an argument that Britain ought to direct its trade away from Europe because this is and will remain a slow-growth zone compared with the new markets in East Asia and even with North America. But that is worth doing anyway: one could not only pursue such a policy while remaining an EU member, it would probably be eas-

ier to do so.
Conclusion? Well, the sums need to be done properly, for this is just the roughest sketch. But I suspect that the optimal economic position for the UK - leave aside the politics would turn out to he a loose hut friendly association with the EU, rather than full memhership, particularly if the rest of Europe pressed on towards an ever-closer uninn. We do need a free-trade agreement, hut we do not need anything more. If the Verona meeting is the start of a move to an explicit multi-tier Europe, the fringe will not he a bad

## A stake in the labour market

Stakeholding is Labour's big idea: but it borrows too heavily from the German model. The future lies in adapting the concept to the needs of an Anglo-Saxon market economy - and in particular to creating a secure workforce, argues David Soskice



It has long been a pragmatic and legitimate practice of Britain's centre-left to borrow policies from abroad; in the 1950s and 1960s it looked to French planning; in the 1970s and 1980s to Scan-dinavian social democracy. Now it looks to Ger-many and stakeholding. Yet the more we understand other systems, the clearer it becomes that taking any one part of a system (such as company stakeholding) away from the rest of the system is unlikely to be fruitful.

The first requirement of the company stakeholding framework is long-term financing. German companies, large and small, benefit from the availability of long-term finance. This is critical to the security employees enjoy. Employees would give much less credence to the idea of security if they knew that owners could suddenly demand higher returns and job cuts, or that companies could be easily sold to new owners. The German ability to provide long-term capital depends upon implicit agreements among large shareholders that are co-ordinated by banks. In Britain these close and long-established links between companies seldom exist.

holding is an effective system of training whereby employees acquire substantial skills in the area in which the company operates. If labour markets are deregulated, as in Britain and the US, and it is easy for companies to hid skilled employees away from the companies that have trained them, the incentive to train diminishes sharply. In Germany labour markets are tightly regulated, which makes poaching more difficult.

The third element of company stakeholding is participation in decision making. This is not a happy family dance in which German employees get some intrinsic pleasure from participation. It is a central part of the stakeholder bargain and promotes identification with the company's success as well as restraint in the use of employee

Even if it were possible to establish the insti-tutional framework for northern European company stakeholding, it is not clear that it would be desirable. Economies whose efficiency derives from companies being able to take a long-term perspective often exclude women from serious careers in the private sector. Well-educated women do significantly better in the US (and Britain) than in Germany, Japan or Sweden. Upwardly mobile women should be wary of proposals to develop a northern European-type labour market.

While the northern European framework provides a comparative advantage for high-quality manufacturing, the more deregulated Anglo-Saxon frameworks have an overwhelming comparative advantage in internationally competitive services, from banking to airlines and the entertainment industry.

Despite these reservations, stakeholding remains an attractive concept. It implies security and inclusion. Stakeholding also suggests active engagement, both from the state and the individual. It is these notions - obligation, choice, security and engagement, as well as the role of the state-which make stakeholding so potent for the centre-left: on the one hand, it speaks to the desires and fears of the self-reliant, middle-of-theroad voters Labour needs to capture; on the other, the role of the state ties stakeholding as a political project to the centre-left.

How can the concept be applied in a useful way in Britain? There is one area where stakeholding can cut with the grain of liberal market economies: the labour market. Labour markets have become notoriously less secure for a large proportion of the population. The company can no longer guarantee employment stability and it is playing a less important role in organising individual careers. Employees' skills may not equip them for employment mobility.

What would having a stake in the labour market, as opposed to in a company, look like? There are two elements. The first is an implicit contract that serious investment of effort by a young person at school should lead to the acquisition of the relevant general and social skills necessary for modern labour markets. For young people at schools in disadvantaged areas this may be difficult to fulfil: it is one reason why it is vital for such

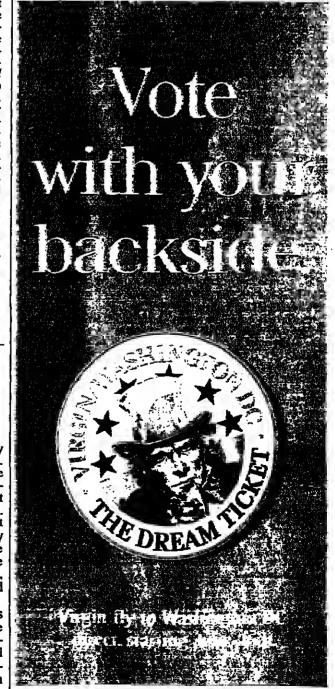
into sixth form colleges. But some young people from disadvantaged backgrounds may not have been able to get into an environment in which appropriate general skills are acquired. If we are frank about it, those are the skills of being middle class. What sort of stakeholder contract can one give to a child who has no chance of developing such skills? These are the children who will fall into a low attainment/low competence trap, getting jobs without prospects at the bottom end of a deregulated labour market. We know that most "high-quality training" policies for these young people are a cruel delusion.

We also know that schemes to subsidise low-level employment in the private sector may reduce unemployment, but seldom provide ladders out. It is therefore of great importance for a government serious about stakeholding to consider low-level public-sector careers, linked to adequate school performance. This would be a real contract for disadvantaged young people -where both they and the gov-erument would have serious ohligations. Such a contract (which the private sector cannot offer) would provide secu-rity in a low-level but useful public service career in exchange for hard work at school and commitment.

The second element of a labour market stakeholder contract concerns the process of moving through careers for the great majority of citizens. As careers increasingly involve not just a number of different employers hut also the acqui-sition of different skills, the traditional ways of dealing with breaks in employ-ment through benefits and information about jobs is giving way to the need for access to educa-tion/training and counselling. It is in this area, where insecurity is rife, that imaginative stakeholding solutions are required. Any such solutions would have to reduce insecurity while preserving the sense of individual opportunity and not imposing excessive restrictions on employers. The individual learning/training account is one such idea. It puts the emphasis on the individual - through the individual's obligation to invest in training in order to attract corresponding subsidies by employer and state, and through the individual's choice in how much to invest and where to train. But it also brings the state into the picture. This would be amplified through a proper education and training counselling service, divorced from the depressing connotations of employment exchanges.

Above all, Labour must underpin the British stakeholding model with a wholehearted commitment to mass higher education. Although the present government has revolutionised higher tionalists complain about falling standards, but almost all courses teach students the social and computing skills required by the new service economy. Even after the expansion of the past decade, only one third of young people in Britain go on to further education, compared with more than half in the US. So here, at least, our model should be liberal America rather than social democra-

.4 longer version of this article appears in the current issue of the magazine 'Prospect'.



## Syria will gain most from the Beirut raids Hizbollah is being used to needle Israel, says Andrew Rathmell

sraeli helicopter gunships yesterday rocketed Beirut for the first time since 1982. It was a calculated escalation in the worsening cycle of vio-lence between Israel and Hizbollah in Lebanon. The raid, coming a day after Hizboliah fired rockets into northern the Israeli-controlled zone, which Israel, marked the failure of US diplokilled one Lebanese civilian and matic efforts to contain the violence

injured three on Monday. and led to fears that Israel may repeat The number of Hizboliah attacks its 1993 offensive, which displaced on Israelis has risen to more than 100 300,000 Lebanese civilians. After that this year. By the end of March Israeli offensive both sides agreed to respect patience was wearing thin. It was only American influence that restrained Israel from launching a certain lines - no attacks on Lebanese civilians and no attacks into Israel. Both sides have now violated the large scale retaliation.

cord, with bloody consequences. A combination of Israeli electoral The attacks were the latest turn in politics, Syrian-Iranian tensions and Syrian-Israeli rivalsy lies behind the the escalaring cycle of violence that has gripped Lebanon in recent weeks. On Wednesday a Hizbollah mortar attack current escalation Prime Minister Shimon Peres knows that his west killed an Israeli soldier and wounded point in the Israeli elections, set for 29 May, is his perceived softness on security. The steady trickle of Israeli three others in Israeli-occupied south Lebanon, a day after a barrage of Katyusha rockets had hit the Galilee

settlement of Kiryat Shemona, would losses in south Lebanon has helped to ing 36 Israelis. The Katyusha strack undermine a reputation already tarwas portrayed as retalization for a nished by the Hamas suicide bomb-roadside bomb in Braachit, north of ings. By authorising tough action in ings. By authorising tough action in Lebanon he hopes to regain some

credibility. He hopes that an Israeli escalation will force the United States to intervene and pressure Syria, whose troops sit astride Hizbollah's supply lines, to clamp down on guerrilla attacks. Israel's director of Lebanon affairs, Uri Lubrani, warned that Syria would get a "whopping" if it intervened to protect Hizbollah.

Syria is not, however, the only power with influence over Hizbollah. Recent Syrian-Iranian tensions have highlighted the role Iran still plays in supplying Hizbollah's military wing, Islamic Resistance, with training and spate of military successes and there are evident splits between Hizbollah's military and civilian leaders.

The former have vowed to fight on while the latter recognise that their future lies in acting as a Lebanese political party since a Lebanese-Israeli peace treaty would make their armed struggle redundant. Divisions between Syria and Iran

and within the Lebanese Shia community have been accompanied by signs that the more moderate Shia movement, Amal, has recently increased its armed operations against Israeli troops. Amal is unequivocally a Syrian proxy and has been used in the past to counter Hizbollah when the latter got out of hand. The return of Amal as a military force may cally responsible for the movement's ing control over Hizbollah's fighters.

In any case, for now Syria is happy to see Hizbollah make Israel bleed. The Syrian-Israeli peace talks have been halted since the wave of Palestinian suicide hombings and will not restart until after the Israeli election. President Hariz al-Assad does not however want to be forgotten. By allowing Hizbollah to operate he reminds Israel that it cannot live securely without peace on the Golan. in return for which Assad would pacify south Lebanon.

If the fighting escalates and grabs international attention, so much the better. His nightmare is to be marginalised while Israel builds a regional block with the Palestinians and Jordan. The current flare-up in Lebanon can only serve to distract Israel from

The writer is a Middle East specialist at the Centre for Arab Gulf Studies, Exeter

virgin atlantic Call 01293 747 747 or see your travel agent.

## Bank of Ireland poised for takeover of Bristol & West

Bristol & West Building Society is set to be taken over by Bank of Ireland in a deal that expens believe could net its 1.4 million members up to £750 in cash or shares.

The society's decision, due to be announced on Monday, is the latest in a stampede by most of the UK's top-10 huilding societies to abandon mutu-

It comes as members of National & Provincial vesterday ing a new account with us unless voted massively in favour of a they are existing customers. It

£1.35hn takeover by Abbey National at an emergency meeting in Manchester.

Bristol & West refused to comment yesterday on whether it was planning to make an announcement over its own mutual status. However, the society closed its doors to all new business in a desperate bid to halt a last-minute rush by thousands of speculators hoping to

gain from the takeover frenzy.

A spokesman said: "We decided to stop people from open-

became apparent that the level of new accounts opening was having an adverse affect on

our existing customers. "This was because the queues were so long we could not provide the level of service we would like. The rush did not come as a surprise and I think we have managed to stop it before it became a problem. We intend to keep the ban on until rumours of a merger have died down."

Sources said yesterday that Bristol & West, which has in effect put itself up for auction for

several months, has chosen Bank of Ireland as the best candidate among a range of suit-ors thought to include Allied Irish Bank and National Australia Bank.

Its discussions are thought to have led it to the Building Socicty Commission, the industry regulator, to ask how to abandon mutuality.

A price tag is not known. When Cheltenham & Gloucester was bought by Lloyds last year, qualifying savers with the C&G received an average windBanking analysts speculated yesterday that the acquisition could cost Bank of Ireland between £600m and £800m.

A higher price would lead to a bigger payout, of up to £750, for Bristol & West's 1.2 million savers and 200,000 borrowers.

However, one analyst said this was unlikely: "Unlike C&G and some of the societies that have announced their flotation plans in recent months, Bristol & West is not as well focused. It has had a disproportionate share of debt and repossessions although it has taken

Protestors disrupt Lloyds TSB annual meeting

large strides in the past two or three years to eliminate the

In the past six months Bris-tol & West has been linked with a number of predators, including financial services to tobacco group BAT and insurance giant Prudential.

Bank of Ireland, formed in 1783, is based in Dublin and has assets of more than £18bu. The hank, which is quoted on the London Stock Exchange, employs about 12,000 staff at almost 500 branches, most of them in Ireland.

In 1987, the Bank of Ireland bought a mortgage lending operation in the UK from Bank of America. The UK business, covered. based in Reading, has a 260-strong staff and a mortgage

cial advisers.

book valued at more than £2bn in 1995. Bank of Ireland Mortages works primarily by offering home loan packages through life insurance companies and independent finan-

However, in common with most centralised lenders, who borrow their money on the wholesale markets, it suffered

One source said that for more than a year. Bank of Ire-land senior executives bave followed a strategy involving the takeover of a suitable UK mutual lender. Bristol & West, among other societies, was carefully considered but did not emerge as favourite until more recently. A Bank of Ireland spokesman said yesterday: "Our policy is that we never comment on any acquisition rumours."

## **Future sell-offs** jeopardised by power sale fiasco

MARY FAGAN Industrial Correspondent

The regulatory fiasco surrounding the Government's flotation, could be faced with a £3.6bn sale last year of shares cutback in the expected £1.8bn in National Power and Power-Gen could seriously deter investment in future privatisations according to the National Audit Office.

The NAO report, which comes on the eve of the £1.8bn Railtrack sale, shows that 91 per cent of institutions felt the furore had "had a negative effect on the likelihood of their participating in future privatis-

In March 1995, Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity watchdog, surprised the City by announcing a renewed ers in PowerGen and National crackdown on electricity distribution prices. The news wiped almost £5bn off electricity share prices within a matter of days.

Professor Littlechild's statement was issued the day after the start in share dealings of newly-sold shares in National Power and PowerGen and caused outrage among private and its potential implications for and institutional investors the entire electricity sector and if world-wide.

could prove extremely emhar- out about four months after the russing for the Government, event, shows that fears over UK Wednesday's unnouncement of the storm had abated. The re- of £2.5bn.

PETER RODGERS

Investors in the Railtrack pri-

vatisation who register and ap-1 ply through one of the 110

institutions acting as share shops will be eligible for a 15p-

: per-share discount on their sec-

ond instalment payment, due in

The discount will apply only to the first 800 shares they are

rallotted in the flotation in May,

and they must hold them con-

tinuously until the payment is

made. Alternatively, investors

may opt for a one-for-15 share

**Business Editor** 

the early resignation of Roger Salmon, the man charged with selling passenger rail franchis-es. SBC Warburg, advisers to the sale price unless it can overcome investor concerns about the railways arising from Mr Sal-mon's resignation, even though

he is not Railtrack regulator. At the same time ministers are faced with increasing scepticism over the planned privatisation of the most modern part of the nuclear industry in the middle of the year.

Mr Littlechild's announcement last year caused a political furore, with the Labour Party accusing the Government Power by going ahead with the sale in the knowledge that the regulator may make a statement on electricity prices. Although the statement had no direct effect on the business of National Power and PowerGen, it created a frenzy of uncertainty over the UK regulatory system

utility industries as a whole. Yesterday's NAO report The NAO survey, carried nuclear reactors,

Railtrack investors due for

discount in the share shop

will he announced on Monday

with the prospectus, but SBC Warburg, global adviser to the sale, has already said it will he

in the 1997 financial year, so

that payments can be made in

two financial years, doubling the

amount that can be put into

The 15p discount is separate from a promised discount to the

offer price when the issue is sold

in May. Retail investors will be

given a lower price than City

and overseas institutions pay. The Government is planning

port admits that the London Stock Exchange confirmed widespread and lingering con-cerns in the market". The Exchange also said that future sales involving a regulated in-dustry would probably come un-der much more careful scrutiny.

The survey shows that these worries are echoed by institutional investors. Almost 80 per cent of those taking part said that Professor Littlechild's intervention has had a negative effect on their perception of the privatised utilities.

According to one City analyst. The NAO's conclusions are hardly surprising as many US investors remain jaundiced and even UK investors hear the previous experience in mind."

He added: "The report adds to the view that commitments and undertakings in any future sale prospectus will have to be extremely clear-cut. There will have to be full disclosure of the implications of any potential political or regulatory changes."

The NAO report comes amidst growing bearishness over the sale of British Energy, the company formed to take over the nation's most advanced

Some analysts believe that the gross value of the flotation which is already struggling to privatisations persisted in spite could be as little as £1.5bn play down components over of insistence by ministers that compared with earlier estimates

cent of the shares intended to

go to individual retail investors as part of incentive-based

The pathfinder prospectus

is expected to announce a sale of 100 per cent of Railtrack. Railtrack shares are expected to

offer a dividend vield in the re-

London loan market sources

said Railtrack had agreed the £2.35bn loan it needs for its core

future financing with a syndicate

of eight banks led by Barclays

Bank's BZW Syndications.

gion of 7 per cent.

The first Lloyds TSB annual meeting since the two banks merged last year was disrupted hy demonstrators yesterday protesting at the bank's stance on third world debt. Some moved several people from the AGM, held in

naked protestors staged what they described as an "ethical streak" and at least two arrests were made by police after security officers re-Edinburgh tabove). Sir Robin Ibbs, the Lloyds TSB chairman, said he bad offered to meet the protestors as recently as last February, but the group had not responded to his

A Lloyds spokesman said: "We do not believed that writing off the debt is the answer. We believe the best way forward is to stay with the countries and help them establish their reputation for financial reliability which will help them raise the finance they need for the

In 1995, problem-country debt contributed £50m to Lloyds TSB's income before tax, comprising £22m from a trading surplus and £28m from a net release of provisions on completion of a rescheduling agreement with Ecuador. This was much lower than in 1994.

## **New Rentokil** offer lifts bid. costs to £74m

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Rentokil yesterday looked set to secure victory in its bid for rival business services BET after raising its offer to £2.1bn. But it revealed that the increased terms would raise the advisory and other costs of its bid by £17m to £74m.

The figure is before any pay-offs for directors, with John Clark, BET's chief executive expected to pick up around £5.6m if he is forced out following a successful takeover.

The news came as Amec, winch successfully fended off an unwanted bid from the Norwegian group Kvaerner, announced that its £4.1m defence costs had cut 1995 profits by

Clive Thompson, Rentokil chief executive, said around £30m of the £57m cost of the original bid related to underwriting fees. The new offer would add around £17m to the total, part of which would be success-related, he said.

BET immediately rejected the increased offer, which was widely expected. News of the higher terms sent the bidder's share price down 13p to 350p vesterday, while BET added 0.75p to 208.25p. Rentokil is offering nine new shares and £10 in cash for every 20 BET shares and promising to pay 4p a share in dividends to BET shareholders. The share terms remain the same under the new offer, but the cash element is raised from £8 to £10.80 or 14p a share. It values BET shares at 211.5p after the fall in the Rentokil price yesterday, well clear of a raised cash alternative of

202.5p, up from 179.5p before. Announcing the new offer, Mr Thompson renewed hostilities in what has already been an acrimonious bid saying that Rentokil would be complaining to the Takeover Panel about

BET's "misleading" use of the two companies' share prices in rejecting the latest offer. He also reopened his attack on the management of BET since Mr Clark took over in

April 1991. He said Mr Clark It claimed that much of the inwas now in the fifth year of a creased offer was illusory, with three year turnaround programme. "The management team which did a sound job in turning round this business has failed, it's failed and it's failed

again in its attempts to grow the business.

Aeros

hoosi

Mr Thompson said Rentokil would reap cost savings from merging businesses and closing the BET head office. The 124 people in that area cost £24.6m in 1994-95 and some of those costs could be saved, but he refused to give any precise figures, saying he did not want to fall into the trap created for itself by Granada when it said during its bid for Forte that it would reap £100m savings from merging the two businesses.

He said any redundancies would come from managerial and administrative personnel and "we are talking about tens or hundreds rather than thousands world-wide." There would be immediate cost savings to be made from merging similar businesses such as cleaning. facilities management, person-



nel and security in the UK. There would also be longerportunities to develop BET's Initial brand name alongside the existing Rentokil brand. They would keep "an open mind" on what to do with peripheral businesses, including plant services, conference centres and resort

But BET said it had "no hesitation" in rejecting the hid after a board meeting yesterday. some 30 per cent of the increase being paid for with money already promised to BET shareholders through its final dividend for this year.

## UBS board throws out CS merger proposal

PETER RODGERS

The board of the Union Bank of Switzerland last night unan-imously rejected a £32bn merg-er approach from CS Holding. one of the other two big Swiss

inumber of jobs in the two banks operations in London, which together employ 6,500.
It was thought that many hundreds and possibly well over

vestment bank subsidiaries had been merged.

holder, will try to overturn the

2530.02 2253.88 1.84†

The statement from the UBS board made no attempt to con-ceal the directors anger with CS Holding's tactics, saying they were taken aback by the bank's demand for a decision in principle ahead of a key shareholders' meeting next Tuesday. This is the meeting at which Martin Ebner, a dissident share-

a thousand jobs could have appointment of Robert Studer Switzerland after UBS and par-been lost in London if the in-as chairman of UBS. Switzerland after UBS and par-ent of Credit Suisse and CS First

bonus on their first 1,200 shares. to sell a minimum 51 per cent
The second instalment date of Railtrack, with at least 30 per-

as Deutsche Bank. merger plan far outweighed the positive, while conceding there were areas where there

Swiss analysts now believe rejection could make CS Holding

vulnerable to a takeover approach from another bank, such But the door to further talks was left slightly ajar when UBS said the negative aspects of the

tain a triple A rating.

The meeting about the plan to create the world's secondbiggest bank began at 4\_30pm London time but Nikolaus Senn. the UBS chairman, had already dropped strong hints that a rebuff was likely after the approach on 1 April from Rain-er Gut, CS Holding's chairman. CS Holding, number two in

lieved that UBS leaked the Boston, is not as strongly capconversation to undermine italised as UBS, which is one of the few banks in the word to re-

support. Mr Senn and other board members have in the recent past argued that UBS should remain independent and on Wednesday a Swiss newspaper printed an in-terview with him in which he was highly sceptical about the need for a merger.
If a deal went ahead, the new

bank would have been the world's second-largest by size of

assets. The combined capitalisation would have been £32bn. But the likely job losses and other rationalisation costs in Switzerland are thought to have been unacceptably high for

UBS because of the degree of overlap between the two businesses. Most analysts agreed that Mr Gut's proposal was a serious attempt to lay the groundwork for some kind of cooperation with UBS, despite political and business difficul-

ties a full merger would face.

#### STOCK MARKETS FTSE 100 3781.30 3639.50 3.96 1954.06 3.05 FT All Share 1791.95 3,77 5689.74 3832.08 2.1t 21791.70 19734.70 0.72† ·97.27

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Japan	0.50	1.00	3.23	2.80			
Germany	3.31	3.31	6.51	7.10	7.25_		
*Beschausk in	dces						
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Asgis Group	53.5	3.3	6.5	House Of Fraser	175	14	7.4
Marley	137	8	6.2	Arjo Wiggins Apple	192	8	4
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Ol Brent \$ Gold \$	394 60	-0.5	390.10	GDP 107.0+2.0pc 106.1 29 Apr

### Subdued inflation fails to prop Dow

DIANE COYLE **Economics Editor** 

Share prices in the US tumbled yesterday for the third time this week, despite new evidence that inflation remains subdued. After a positive initial reac-

tion to figures showing that the rise in "core" prices at the factory gate last month was lower than expected, the Dow Jones industrial Average fell 70 points to 5,415 by mid-morning before regaining some of the

lost ground.

The decline hit shares in London, where the FT-SE 100 index ended more than 23 points down at 3,744.2. The New York Stock Ex-

change imposed its automatic curbs on trading - for the 39th time this year - after a morning bout of computer selling.
This was triggered by a fall in stock futures as investors concluded that low inflation last month did not mean it would stay low. Concern centred on com-

modity prices. The price of crude oil is at a four and a half year high, with the benchmark Brent crude for May delivery up 54 cents a barrel at \$22.57 by late yesterday afternoon. Higher grain prices as a re-

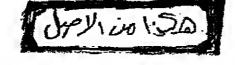
sult of dry weather have also helped take the Federal Reserve's favoured commodity price index, from the Commodity Research Bureau, to its highest level for eight years.

Inflation at the factory gate in the US remained subdued last month apart from commodity-driven increases in energy and food costs.
The producer price index in-

creased by 0.5 per cent to a level 2.4 per cent higher than a year The core increase, excluding food and energy, was only 0. per cent in the month and 1.9

per cent in the year to March. Energy prices jumped 2.4 per cent and food prices rose 0.6 per cent in March. Financial markets remained concerned about the risk of higher inflation in future. Figures for US retail sales and consumer prices due to be released

today will keep Wall Street nerves on edge. Dan Seto, an economist at securities firm Nikko in New York, said: "The price figures reflect past economic conditions. There are some troubling inflation pressures." However. most analysts do not expect the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates in a horry



wondered whether

brought to book for

mugging the markets

year, the NAO's report

will be sweet justice'

took in March last

the spectacular

anyone would ever be



## Littlechild factor lingers among investors

Nine out of 10 share owners said their funds preferred not to buy UK privatisation issues. Well, not quite, hut today's dissection by the National Audit Office of the way ministers mishandled the sale of COMMENT National Power and PowerGen is the nearest we are likely to get to seeing retribution 'For those who

visited on the Treasury and old whiskers himself, Professor Stepben Littlechild. The taxpayer may not like the NAO's finding that institutional investors have been put off in their droves from subscribing for future privatisations by the antics of the director general of electricity supply. the Financial Secretary and his advisers BZW and Klemwort Benson. But for those who wondered wbether anyone would ever be brought to book for the spectacular mugging the markets took in March last year, the NAO's report will be sweet justice.

For the record, it is worth recounting events a year ago as the Government pre-pared to sell off its remaining shareholdings

in the two generators.

On 27 February the Treasury was informed that Professor Littlechild was thinking of ordering a fresh review of electricity prices. For the next four days they gazed at their navels before concluding that it would bave no effect on the generators

The following Monday, 6 March, the partly-paid shares began trading and even managed to go to a premium until Profes-sor Littlechild clubbed the entire sector the

next day with his price review. Shares in National Power and PowerGen plunged below their issue price and remained in the doldrums for the best part of two months while overseas investors thought about withbolding payment and the two generators consulted their lawyers about whether to sue.

The Treasury's subsequent internal review found itself not guilty on the inspired grounds that it had not been in possession of price-sensitive information that required disclosure in the prospectus.

Well, what else were the poor tortured souls supposed to have done? Pulled the sale and waved goodbye to £3.6bn in receipts or alerted the markets and watched the syndicte of international banks managing the offer take a beating? In the end they decided that non-disclosure was the better part of valour and ploughed ahead.

But, as the NAO demonstrates, a sour

taste continues to linger in the mouths of the investment community. In the cold light of day four months after the shenanigans of March 1995, nearly half those institutional investors polled rated the sale unsuccessful and 91 per cent say it had a negative effect on their likelihood of participating in future privatisations. These are institutions that the Government must rely on to ensure that the much more problematic sales of Railtrack and British Energy pass without disaster.
Who could now blame them for approach-

ing these two offers with much greater caution when confronted with ministers bearing heavilty regulated utilities for sale? The | Why strive for a better standard of living | upshot may be less interest and still lower prices. Revenge is sweet but voters may not share the satisfaction.

#### Blair learns his tax lessons

The Grand Hyatt Hotel in New York is no doubt a more convivial spot for a Labour leader to spell out his party's tax policy than some stuffy committee room in the Com-mons. It is also a safer place, particularly when his delivery is bereft of anything that even approximates to a hard number.

Four years ago the Sbadow Chancellor John Smith ended Labour's dreams of power by unveiling the shadow budget it would have enacted if in government to a cramped Westminster press conference. The electorate took one look and ran a mile into the arms of John Major.

Tony Blair's address to the British American Chamber of Commerce in the US yesterday shows that New Labour has learnt the lesson. It was, unsurprisingly, long on ideals but shorter on figures, and wby not?

It did not matter that more people would have been better off under John Smith's detailed tax proposals than would have been worse off. But by setting out where the break point lay he allowed his opponents to spread the message that Labour was the enemy of endeavour and self-improvement.

when it would only be taken away in tax? Mr Blair has avoided that pitfall while

promising that the days of "reflex tax and spend policies are over" to be replaced by the need to build a "new trust on tax". Reading between the lines, this may take school teachers, policemen and some middle managers out of the top tax rate.

But we will have to wait for Gordon Brown, the Labour manifesto and economic circumstances at the time to discover where trust ends and betrayal begins.

For the 600 or so businessmen who made up Mr Blair's audience yesterday that is an important consideration. His speech was designed for domestic consumption but it was also cleverly dressed up to reassure the international business community that Labour will not scare off inward investment.

Part of the package is to ensure that British tax levels are internationally com-petitive. At the moment they are. The UK's main rate of corporation tax is lower than all its main European competitors and only higher than Norway and Sweden.

But the tax rates businessmen look at most avidly when deciding whether to relocate abroad are the ones they will pay out of their own pockets. The UK's top marginal rate of tax, at 40 per cent, is substantially below that of Germany, France, Belgium and Italy as well as that of Japan, giving Labour the lee-way to raise the top rate while still taking millions of working people out of the highest but whether it would tempt American and Japanese executives over bere is less obvious.

### BET bid leaves

a nasty hangover

The most boring bid in recent memory is mercifully drawing to a close, with Ren-tokil looking like it will capture its prey. But the acquisition of BET will leave a nasty hangover in the shape of the combined £100m-plus in fees Clive Thompson's sharebolders will have to fork out.

This raises wider questions about what value the City adds to the UK economy. The bidder naturally argues that its superior management will add value to BET and therefore, presumably, that the money is well spent in improving the performance of British industry. No doubt Peter Mason, the new chief executive of Amec, would use a similar case in defending the £4.1m his com-

pany spent fending off Kvaerner last year. But the size of these fees is reaching a level where they are hitting financial performance. In Rentokil-BET's case the fees would wipe out three-quarters of this year's forecast profits. With privatisation issues drying up, the City is likely to lift its efforts to persuade companies to become more acquisitive to boost flagging incomes. But more gravy for the City could spell increased and unnecessary costs for British industry.

## Aerospatiale shift boosts hopes for reforms at Airbus

MARY FAGAN

Industrial Consepondent

Plans for restructuring Airbus Industrie have taken a large step forward following public backing for the move by Aerospatiale of France, one of the four part-ners in the aircraft consortium. The shift in stance by the French group comes as Edzard Reuter, chairman of Airbus and former chairman of Daimler Benz, prepares to report to the board on the future shape

of the European partnership.

British Aer 15 May, which has 20 per cent of Airbus, has been battling to turn the planebuilding organisation into a separately incorporated group German government has come out in favour of reorganisation cently opposed the change.

In a surprise move, Louis Gallois, chairman of Aerospasystem under which work on the aircraft is parcelled out to the consortium partners according to their shareholdings.

Mr Gallois accepted that the move, which could go hand in resisted change. hand with the transformation of

Airbus into a public limited said they want Airbus numed into company, any meta Acrospa-

tiale losing out to rivals in competitive tendering. In an interview earlier this week, he said that airlines need reassurance about the future of the Airbus grouping and that this "is linked to the transformation of its status into a fully fledged company". Mr Gallois stressed the need

to react quickly to customers' demands but added that be does not think that the group can be transformed overnight. Pressure to policina the series ture of Airbus has been mount-

ing in recent weeks following threats from the German government to withhold subsidies instead of a partnership. The for the development of the partnership's next aircraft unless it begins a reorganisation. ments, work is shared by members of Airbus - which in

addition to BAe and Aerospatiale, has called for an end to the tiale include Daimler Benz Aerospace and Casa of Spain according to their participation. This has been criticised by the UK and Germany as inefficient but until now France has

Britain and Germany have

Airbus could also allow the expansion of the partnership to help fund the next generation of super-jumbo aircraft. BAe sources have dismissed press speculation that it would

want an increase in its stake if

a conventional company with managerial freedom to make de-

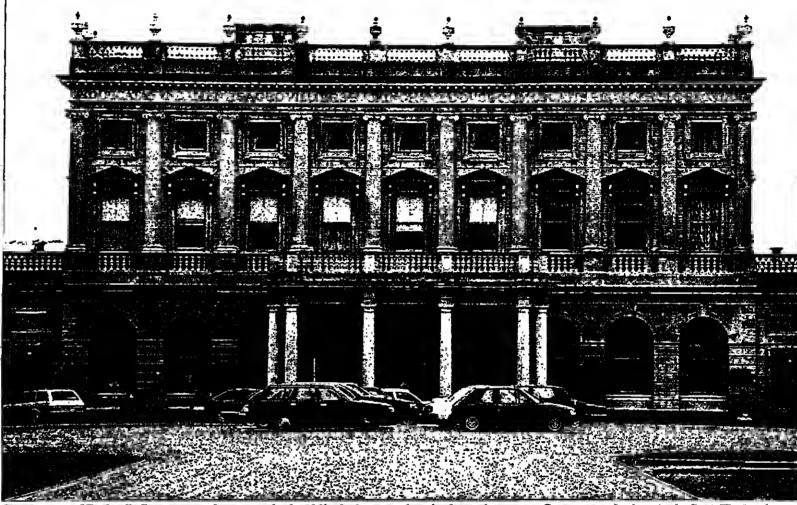
cisions about cost cuts without constantly referring back to the

partners. The restructuring of

Airbus is restructured. The Airbus plans to build the 550-seater A3XX, could cost more then £300 and the colding partners are unlikely to be able to raise the capital. There is speculation that Airbus could embrace new partners from Asia and the Pacific Rim, where growth of airline orders is expected to be strongest over the

A recent survey of the airline market by Boeing estimated investment of \$1,100bn on about 16,000 aircraft over the next 20 years with the bulk of the demand coming from Asia-Pacific. If Airbus hecomes a separately incorporated company it will have more freedom to buy components from the

#### Former Astor home turned luxury hotel floats to a premium on market début



Cliveden, one of England's finest country honses and now a luxury hotel, ended its first day of trading yesterday at 85p, up from its flotation price of 73p. The 376-acre estate in Berkshire was home to the Astor family in the 1930s, when it played host to the pro-appeasement lobby, and in the 1960s the honse again gained notoriety during the Profumo scandal.

The honse is now owned by two businessmen John Lewis and John Tham, who made the Royal Crescent Hotel in Bath a success and have a number of similar projects planned. Beeson

Gregory were brokers to the float. The hotel made operating profits of £1.4m on sales of £6.4m to the end of October 1995. According to the prospectus, trading in the first 20 weeks of this year was "significantly ahead" of the same period last year.

### Daimler Benz slides to loss of £2.5bn

#### **MARY FAGAN**

Currency losses and problems with its Dasa aerospace arm belped force Daimler Benz to net loss of DM5.7bn (£2.5hn) in 1995.

However Manfred Gentz, chief financial officer, said key businesses within the group were well hedged against currency fluctuations into the near future. The group paid no dividend

for the year and said it was too early to comment on any payout for 1996. Jürgen Schrempp, chairman,

said that Dasa, one of the four partners in the European Airbus consortium, should break even in 1997 after losses of more than DM4bn last

He said that restructuring measures to achieve the turnaround have been provided for in the 1995 accounts.

Mercedes-Benz, the group's antomotive unit, provided an upbeat tone at the annual

meeting with projections of a 5 per cent increase in sales this year, with profits at least equal to those in 1995.

Last year Mercedes made a net DM2.275hn compared with DM1.849bn a year earlier while sales rose to DM72bn from DM70.7bn in 1994.

Currency market fluctuations reduced group net in-come by DM2.4bn. Daimler said currencies hurt net income by reducing the operating results by DM1.6bn while a further DM800m was shaved off to cover provisions for risks on its order books.

The mark climbed much of last year against the dollar other European currencies.

A strong mark hurts German companies by reducing the amount of money they make on overseas business and by raising the price of their goods when they are denominated in other currencies.

Mr Gentz said Daimler's car business in the US was



Jürgen Schrompp: Expects restructuring measures to give break-even in 1997

bedged at exchange rates above recent levels well into this year and in Europe into the autumn.

He added that Dasa was hedged into 1997 and even 1998 with futures contracts clearly above" the current dollar/mark rate.

Daimler said group sales should grow this year by 5 to 10 per cent on last year's at the high turnout of the 1.4

## **N&P** vote in favour of **Abbey National bid**

#### NIC CICUTTI and KEN WELSBY

National & Provincial, the seventh-largest building society in the UK, finally agreed a £1.35bn takeover by Abbey Na-tional at an extraordinary meeting of its members yesterday.

About 840,000 savers, more than 96 per cent of the total who voted at the AGM and in a postal ballot, agreed the takeover terms which will net them a minimum of £750 in cash or Abbey National shares, plus per cent of their balances. Borrowers, who will receive £500 worth of shares each, agreed the takeover terms by a majority of 233,000 to 10,000. A joint saver and borrower with a maximum deposit could gain up to £4,750 from the

to begin in late August. Lord Shuttleworth, chairman of N&P said he was delighted

takeover. Payouts are expected

The society bad approached more than 40 organisations be-fore deciding the Abbey National offer was in the best interests of its members.

Alastair Lyons, the society's chief executive, said Abbey National bad given a commitment there would be no compulsory redundancies in the retail network in either organisation. The 1,400-strong workforce at N&P's bead office in Bradford probably would be expanded. However, closures of about 130 Abbey National and N&P branches will take place as the merged organisation rationalises down to a network 880-

Strong. The vote yesterday marks the latest stage in an £180n-demutualisation fever that bas seen virtually every leading building society, including Halifax, Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester, announce plans to float on the Stock Exchange. Last week, Northern Rock

plans. Bristol & West is expected to follow suit next week But Mr Lyons said N&P had not rushed to escape its mutuality: "It was a strategic move ... to widen our customer hase. The fact that bas given rise to a move from mutuality is a consequence rather than a cause.

Our decision was based upon where we were in the market as a national name hut [only] a medium-sized player. The combined financial institution will employ 23,000 and bave assets of about £113bn.

Despite the high postal vote in favour, questioners at the 500-strong EGM were overwhelmingly bostile to the bid.

Lord Monkswell, a Labour peer and N&P member, said the motion was one of "whether we turn ourselves into a bank and sell our accounts to another bank for a vast sum of money" The takeover would be funded with an increase in interest rates paid by borrowers and a reduc-

 Bundesbank officials allowed hopes of a cut in German interest rates to rise yesterday. Hans Tietmeyer, president of the central bank, said: "There is no question of an interest rate rise in the forseeable future." Chief economist Otmar Issing said surging growth in M3, the target money measure, did not imply any threat of inflation. The remarks came on the same day that figures showed a 2 per cent drop in the volume of retail sales in February.

 Dowty, the aerospace company owned by TI group, has won a \$40m contract to supply hydraulic systems on Raytheon aircraft for the US military. The order comes within months of a decision by a New York court to throw out an action against another Dowty operation for alleged overcharging on labour and production costs on components supplied to the US Air Force. TI said that the new contract and the alleged complaint are entirely unrelated.

 Amec is still talking with Norwegian shipbuilding and engineering company Kvaerner about its 26.1 per cent shareholding in Amec and possible joint venture partnerships, Amec chief executive Peter Mason said. "Kvaemer has signalled its intention to sell its stake, hut we don't know if it will be placed or sold on to another potential suitor." Separately, Amec announced the purchase for an undisclosed sum of South West Infrastructure Maintenance, sixtb of the seven British Rail maintenance companies to be sold. Turnover of the company was over £100m last year, when it was profitable, Amec said.

 Scottish Amicable has launched Personal Equity Portfolio a new product which will combine the advantages of a PEP and a splitlevel investment trust and allow investors to put up to £50,000 into a tax-free investment. Up to £6,000 will be invested in ordinary shares in UK companies through a new split level trust, the Amicable Strategy Trust, and qualify as a PEP. The halance will be invested in warrants which will be converted into shares outside the PEP but all the income will be channelled through the PEP. After seven years the trust will be wound up and investors will receive back the higher of £50,000 or £44,000 indexed to the retail price index. Minimum investment is £10,000. The initial charge is 4.9 per cent and the annual fee 1 per cent.

 Some of America's largest retailers revealed a mixed picture of US retail trends yesterday, ahead of today's Commerce De-

partment retail figures which are expected to show a modest increase for March. Sears Merchandise Group reported comparable

sales figures up 6.8 per cent in March this year compared to the

same mouth in 1995. However KMart said its domestic like for

like sales were flat while JC Penney reported a 1 per cent fall in

## City thumbs-down for new House of Fraser boss

#### NIGEL COPE

House of Fraser, the beleaguered department store group that ousted its managing director last month, moved quickly to fill the void yesterday when it named former Texas Homecare chief John Coleman as its

new chief executive. However, the choice disappointed the City, with analysts saying Mr Coleman was not the "big hitter" required to address House of Fraser's difficulties. The shares slumped 14p to 175p - below the 180p issue price when the company Came to the stock market two House of Fraser becoming a takeover target.

Some analysts said Mr Colein anticipation of a bit more strengthen the position of Brian cut out to live up to the expec-McGowan, the group's non-tations of the market."

Chairman, who The share price use ha pledged to stay on yesterday in . spite of the company's poor per-formance under his stewardship.

Robert Snaith, stores analyst retailer who led the revival of at Societé Générale Strauss Storehouse, was in line for the Turnbull, said: "Worthy though John Coleman is, he is not the ficulties to put right and it has was first choice. No one turned worst-performing retailers on the woods earlier this year.

Tony Shiret, at BZW, said: "The share price had moved up

The share price rise had been fuelled by a morture of takeover speculation and rumours that David Dworkin, the American

top job.

Mr McGowan defended the big hitter many were hoping appointment though he stopped looking forward to the challenge for. It is a chain with a lot of different short of saying that Mr Coleman of turning round one of the

years ago – as the City began to no genuine flagship store to discount the possibility of carry it through the bad times." me down. I probably saw eight the stock market. "Obviously people and John came out as I'm very excited. Of course available immediately."

Mr Coleman, 43, will be paid man's appointment appeared to than this. He will have his work a salary of £300,000 plus a perwill also be eligible for share options worth four times the level . of his salary and has a one-year rolling contract. He takes over from Andrew Jennings, who was ousted from the managing director's position last month af-

ter a series of profits warnings. Mr Coleman said he was

easily the best. He was also there are problems but the brands are strong and so is the team here."

He declined to be drawn on formance-related bonus. He strategy but said he would be conducting an immediate review when he joins the company on 29 April. Mr Coleman bas been keen

to return to the high street since his departure from Texas Homecare, following its takeover by Sainsbury last year. He joined forces with the Barry Dale consortium that tried unsuccessfully to take over Lit-



March sales • Reflec, the printing inks group, is to seek a listing on the Alternative Investment Market. The Manchester-based company is hoping to raise £750,000 from the float which will value the group at £2.75m.

 Sophus Berendsen, the Danish majority owner of Rentokil, yesterday announced more than doubled profits for 1995. The group said net profits after minorities soared to \$165.3m in 1995, well above analysis forecasts. "Given stable exchange rates and economic conditions the group expects continued progress in 1996".

## ousiness

## Question of confidence at Amec

The recent share price performance of Amec, the cootracting group, has so far easily justified the shareholders' decisioo to reject last year's £360m hid from the Norwegian group Kvaerner. The share price, up 3p at 110p yesterday, is oow well clear of the 100p a share offered by Kvaerner. But it remains an open question whether the market's aptrent confidence in the group is reparent confidence in the group is re-lated to future trading prospects or speculation about the future home of Kvaerner's residual 26 per cent stake in Amec.

Yesterday's results for the year to December, showing flat profits of £20m before the £4.1m hid defence costs, will give confidence to the many shareholders who argued that Amec's future is rosy as it recovers from the bottom of the construction cycle. Stripping out the £8.1m cost of preparing claims against Agip, the client on the troubled Tiffany oil platform contract, operating profits jumped from £29.4m to £40.9m last year.

Barring the Tiffany-related loss at the Newcastle offshore construction operation, all the businesses were ahead last year. Profits more than doubled to £11.9m in the construction division add credibility to Amec's claims that the increasing proportion of design-and-build contracts in its portfolio adds value to the business. Competition for this type of business is less - typically four bidders instead of the usual 10, says Amec - fees tend to be higher and there

is more flexibility in charging. Elsewhere, the small Fairclough Homes divisioo did well to turn losses of £2.8m into ptofits of £2.6m last year. In line with others in the sector, Amec is experiencing a sharp upturn in the market in 1996, with 13 per cent ahead this year. Anticipating the outcome of the "root and branch" review of the group curreotly being undertaken, oew chief executive Peter Masoo yesterday emphatically ruled out

a sale of the housing business. Mr Masoo is confident that 1996 will be a "ooticeably" hetter year than 1995. The group will be without the milistone of the Tiffany cootract, order books are at record levels in many areas and margins are expected to improve as more profitable work taken oo receotly

comes through to the figures. But risks abound, Despite Mr Mason's confideoce, competitioo continues to be intense in areas like structural steelwork and even design and build is oot immune from margin pressures. It is not clear that Amec has the balancesheet strength to compete effectively in the Government's private finance initiative against better-placed rivals like Laing and Tarmac. Meanwhile, its homes business is too small, but the write-off oo a sale would probably wipe

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

AMEC: at a glance

180

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

ing tougher with the sales uplift slowing

to 2 per cent in the three months since

the year-end.
While Nurdin will continue to mop up

smaller cash-and-carry operators, it is

pinning much of its hopes on hullding

its delivery business, servicing indepen-dent retailers and corner shops.

The margins are better - about 4 per

ceot compared with less than 2 per cent

in the core business - but the key to suc-

cess is building sufficient economies of

shrug off an unhelpful sales mix in the

1994

Nurdin is looking to grab 10 per cent

out shareholders' funds. Profits of £33m uity and is showing no signs of selling. this year, putting the shares on a prospective multiple of 17, is still a meagre retained the performance of Nurdin's core cashturn on sales of £2.5bn. The limited and-carry business, which is harely prospect of a bid is the only reason for treading water in a shrinking market holding the shares. treading water in a shrinking market dominated by large competitors.

#### Little substance at Nurdin

For an unglamorous cash-and-carry operator, Nurdin & Peacock has been the subject of a good deal of attention of late - most of it takeover talk. This has been good news for the share price, which has risen sharply this year since a February profits warning. Sadly, for investors, nothing seems to have materialised.

Booker, the rival food and cash and carry group most recently tipped as a predator, played down hid rumours last

The other possibility is SHV Makro, of the delivery market – equivalent to the Dutch group, which holds 14 per cent of Nurdin's stock and is now free to increase its stake. All is quiet here too and after management changes at Makro, the two oo longer speak to each other.

Hurdin is tooking to grap to per cent of the delivery market – equivalent to f350m of sales – within the oent few years. Hence yesterday's £400,000 purchase of Thompsoo Wholesale Foods, a Manchester-based delivery group.

More deals like this are needed to help

The other block is the Peacock family which cootrols 30 per ceot of the eq- core business, which is skewed towards

**Five-Year record** 

Dividends per share (pence)

Operating profit (£m)

lower margin orders of tobacco, wines and spirits. The belated introduction of electronic stock ordering systems should also help but may oot be

enough.

With analysts expecting profits of £24.5m this year and with the shares Ip higher at 175p yesterday, Nurdin is oo a forward rating of 13. With big hopes receding, the shares look set for a period of drift. dominated by large competitors.

Pre-tax profits of £19.6m were in line

#### with February's warning but the operating figure of £24.5m is still lower than last year. Like-for-like sales were up by 4 per cent last year, but this year is provhigher oil prices

British Petroleum's annual meeting statement yesterday that it intends to raise its profits by a half over the oext five years is welcome oews for share-holders. It largely confirmed the strategic plans outlined to analysts last mooth, but with news of higher oil prices gave an added boost to sentiment and the shares added 5.5p to 591.5p.

The earnings target translates into 8 per cent year-oo-year growth or another \$1.5bn oo the bottom line, something shareholders will share in directly through the group's divideod policy.
John Browne, BP chief executive, said the guideline now was to pay out half underlying earnings to shareholders. He has already hinted there could be special payouts or share huy-backs if

the earnings target is exceeded.

Add in plans to keep debt to below
\$8bn and to grow capital expenditure
to close to \$6bn and BP has presented a dream scenario to investors. But as Mr Browne admitted, around 80 per cent of the improvement in the past three years has come from cost-cutting and in the future the group must put more emphasis on growth. His target is for over half the uplift in performance to come through top-line expansion. Since 1992, BP has led the industry

in selling off peripheral assets and improving the focus of its capital expenditure. Its decision to merge its European refining and marketing with Mobil shows there is still scope for further innovation on this front.

But it remains to be seen whether it can achieve the same returns from genuine growth. Traditionally reliant on mature fields in the North Sea and Alaska, BP is confident it can raise production by up to 5 per cent a year and still more than replace reserves into the oext century. That is a heroic assumption, even with oew discoveries.

Assuming net income of £2.5bn this year, the shares stand on a forward rating of 14. That looks fair value, particularly since, despite their recent outperformance, the shares have just caught up with Shell on a five-year view.

## Body language and its place in phone shopping

CITY DIARY

JOHN WILLCOCK

What do you get up to when you're on the phone? With the advect of the mobile hone obviously the question is more interesting than it used to be.

According to a survey by TSB (now part of Lloyds Bank) into phone shopping, nearly half (49.1 per cent) eat or cook while on the phone. Almost one in four smokes (23.5 per cent) and one in five works (18.6 per ceot). About the same oumber (17.5 per cent) "doodle or watch

Communications psychologist Guy Fielding warns that this means many people are not getting the best out of phone shopping, "Body lan-guage, confidence and persistence are as important oo the phooe as in the shop," he

Maybe so, but the TSB's accompanying leaflet sounds a bit obvious: "Before you pick up the phooe, decide more or less what you want to say. Because you can't see the other person, pay particular attention to how the other

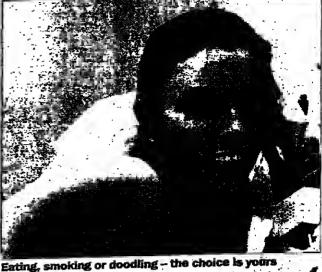
I'll make sure to remember that one.

A joke that is doing the rounds among brokers back from the piste: How many ski instructors does it take to change a light bulb? One to change it and six to criticise every turn.

A heavyweight report pub-lished by the Ethical Investment Research Service yesterday will not result in trees in rainforests being felled, despite the fact that the report is more than 100

Forget the National Lettery. If you own or run a small business and you need a cash injection look no further than Lloyds Bank's new Grantfinding service. Lloyds is offering free IBM-compatible floppy disks to the first 3,000 who phone 0345-343434.

The idea is to get rid of "grant cowboys" who promise grants and then disappear with their advance fee. More than £5ho is available from the European Unioo and government grants. And you don't have to watch Anthea Turner.



pages long. The back of the report, which is titled Money & Ethics, carries the blurb:
"Printed with soya-based inks
and recycled paper." Sounds

Scotland has always had a reputation for producing good accountants, so it is particularly fitting that the newly appointed president of the trade body for receivers - the "Society of Practitioners of Insolveocy" (SPI) - is a

Glaswegian. Gordon Stewart, 40. is also, however, a lawyer, and as the overwhelming majority of receivers are accountants this could give rise to professional jealousy. Whatever their statemeots in public, the two professions are keep rivals in private.

Receivers, however, seem to like Mr Stewart, an insolvency partner with the solicitors Allen & Overy, despite

his being a lawyer. "He's a pretty practical and commercial animal – some lawyers aren't," commented one senior receiver.

With a career spanning big ases such as Ferranti and Maxwell, Mr Stewart is even approved of by his fellow insolvency lawyers, one of whom said: "He's a good, solid, sensible operator - rather than an extravagant prima

donna whizzkid." Sad to relate, Mr Stewart has just this week slipped from the top position to number two in Allen & Overy's Fantasy Football League Table. Colleagues have dubbed him "the Keegan of

Remember that corporate jet that Forte owned and which became the butt of so much criticism during the recent bid for the group by Granada? To backers of the bid the Porte aircraft came to represent everything that was out of date and flabby about the catery group.

them in a line

Now it appears that Granada has decided to keep the jet -because it is "quite useful for management." So who's going to bid for Grana-

### Acquisition gives a boost to Rathbone profits and payout

**NIGEL COPE** 

Rathbone Brothers, the private banking and asset management group, recorded a sharp increase in profits, boosted by last year's acquisition of Laurence Keen, the investment manager and stockbroker.

Announcing a 20 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £7.4m for 1995, Oliver Stanley, chairman, said the group was still on the look-out for further deals but would not diversify from its core

Mr Staoley said he was revenue earnings and operating vices in 1988.

of Laurence Keen, which Rathbooe acquired last March for £10m in shares.

The existing investment management departments in Londoo and Liverpool are still expanding and, following the Laureoce Keeo deal, Rathbones has £2bn of funds under management. Both the trust and advisory department enjoyed good years, with significant increases in business.

Mr Stanley said that with much of the trust department's

pleased with the performance expenses in Swiss francs, the group was helped and hindered by the currency's streogth.

Group turnover rose from £18m to £28m. Earnings per share rose from 21p to 21.3p and the final dividend was increased from 9p to 10p. Rathbone was established in

1742 to manage the fortunes of the Liverpool Rathbone family, which made its fortunes in timber and ships. It has expanded into the management of private client money since it merged with Combined Financial Ser-

### MAM division offers £93m for group of psychiatric hospitals

Mercury Development Capital, the venture capital arm of Mercury Asset Management, has of-fered to buy Priory Hospitals Group, a private UK-based psy-chiatric group, from its US owners for £93m.

The proposed deal for the group is subject to Mercury carrying out due diligeoce checks. on the business. MDC said yesterday that the intended purchase would allow it to invest in a developing business with an excellent performance record.

Ian Armitage, a director at MDC, said: "We are hoping to develop the group. It is too soon to talk about expansioo or acquisition. In this area, these things happen on the basis of incremental leaps, such as a new unit being built."

Priory Hospitals Group has been owned by Community Psychiatric Centerscor, based in Las Vegas, for about 10 years. It has a oumber of small hospitals around the country, together with dialysis, forensic and child care units.

The development of a private MAM.

psychiatric unit in Britain has allowed the US operation to compete for referrals from a variety of sources, including

insurers, GPs and the NHS. CPC said yesterday that the sale valued each bed at almost £130,000. The price is, however, less than is cormally paid for beds in private hospitals treating the physically ill, who geoerate more revenue through a greater use of medical services

and supplies. Mercury Development Capital is the private equity arm of

	Turnover £	Pre-lax E	EPS	. Dividend
AMEC (F)	2.45bn (1.96bn)	15.9m (20.0m)	1.1p (3.1p)	3p (3p)
Cradley Group (1)	12.4m (11.9m)	1.52m (112m)	3.1p (2.3p)	rall (nill)
Eadle Holdings (F)	39.8m (31.8m)	3.51m (0.78m)	3.99p (1.01p)	1.2k (1p)
Hardle & Peacock (F)	1.660m (1.520m)	21.5m (16.5m)	12.3p (9p)	7.25p (6.9p)
Prestorick (I)	17.6m (14.4m)	0.13m (0.41m)	nii (0.41p)	of (vil)
Radibone Bros (F)	27.8m (18.4m)	7.86m (6.20m)	21.310 (210)	100 (90)
S Lyles (1) .	8.00m (8.29m)	-0.50m (-0.38m)	-8.86p (-3.92p)	nii (rai)
SweGowfield (F)	37.0m (34.9m)	2.69m (2.56m)	13.8p (13.3p)	6.5p (6.2p)
Tealst (F)	16,5m (17.9m)	9.26m (0.11m)	2.22p (1.03p)	1.0p (0.5p)
Reyor (F)	9.89m (8.60m)	0.26m (-0.18m)	11.44p (-8.04p)	40 (nll)

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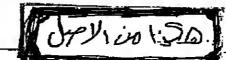
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## market report/shares

\* Allegan

Section .



DATA BANK

3744.2 -23.2

FT-SE 100

Micro Focus adds excitement to a lacklustre session

phere to score a 120p advance 1989 that the shares really to 853p, highest for six months.

Behind the surge were stories of a US takeover bid which at least enjoyed the distinction of being supportated by Chairman Brian Reynolds, suffered the indignity of a 66 5m loss but mandistinction of being supported by American buying.
It was said Werthiem
Schroder, the US investment

house related to Schroders, the London securities group, was pursuing Micro shares.

This week Micro has surged 173p as the stories of US and the possibility of yet another of the market had an uneasy session with New York's continuing weakness and the possibility of yet another Covernment business. action gathered strength. The published turnover has not tion defeat having a

Micro Focus, one of the stock market's most volatile shares, defied a lacklustre atmospicked up steam. Four years ago they topped £30 but as

nity of a £6.5m loss but managed in assure the market that it was getting to grips with its problems.

other Government by-elec-

been extensive but for a deadening influence.

The FT-SE 100 index succumbed 23.2 points to 3,744.2

Amstrad. the electric group, had a difficult session.



DEREK PAIN Stock market reporter

nf the year

MARKET REPORT

British Petroleum, with the market hotel group, made a crude price even stronger, re-mained in demand, hitting

591.5p with a 5.5p gain. British Steel, however, fell 3p to 190.5p with SGB Warburg downgrading and send-ing out a sell signal. RTZ, on firmer metal prices and posi-tive comments from Lehman Brothers, improved 15p to 973p.
Amstrad, the electric

solid debut, closing at 86p from a 73p placing. The arrival of Texas Home-

care man John Coleman as chief executive of the struggling House of Fraser stores chain was greeted with 14p slide to 175p nn the theory the hoped for take over bid would,

cash generator". Profits for the said it was about to rejoin the year ending this month are mainstream engineering sec-likely to he £25.5m with tor and said buy.

£82.9m seen for 1988.

Building and related shares continued to draw strength from the mortgage war and waters were buoyed by the government sales. Paper and packaging was ruffled by the cautious comments from Jefferson Smurfit. Rentokil's higher offer for BET clipped

slide to 175p nn the theory the hoped for take over bid would, at least, be delayed.

WH Smith climbed a further Sp to 484p nn disposal hopes and attempts to put forward Sears as a takeover can-

maker, edged forward 6.5p to
744.5p as Credit Lyonnais
Laing said it was a "superior 83p as NatWest Securities

tor and said buy.

Zotefoams, the chemical
group hit by destocking, held
at 268p; ABN Amro Hoare Govett forecast a modest profit advance to £7.5m this year with £9.6m next.

MultiMedia shaded 1p to 84p. Meglomedia, the media group headed by Maurice Saatchi, has taken a 10 per cent stake. The shares come from Monaco-based 1960's whiz kid David Rowland whose Inoco property group retains 15.66 per cent. Mr Rowland has accepted Meglomedia shares m

☐ Friendly Hotels, with 23 properties, a seven-strong joint venture with British Land and London's Connaught Rooms banqueting centre, is being transformed. Nigel Hicks at stockbroker Panmure Gordon is looking for profits of £5.5m this year (against £3.3m) and £7.3m

TAKING STOCK

He points out that new management is to be in-stalled, a US group is pump-ing in £12m and could take a significant minority stake and the loss-making Serviced Offices division will be sold for £12m. The shares held at 145p against a 12-month high

been considerable activity.  A takeover bid for the software house would be a cause for jubilation for longstanding Micro shareholders. They have had an erratic ride since the shares arrived in the ear-	index again succeeded in putting its mure illustrious indicator to shame by scoring another record high ye 3.4 to Marrill Lynch made peak	the ward Sears as a takeover can- didate soon petered nut, leaving the shares 1.5p down at 98p.  Matthew Clark, the drinks we group which has emerged as to help the £47.8m takeover the Blue Arrnw recruitme chain received a 91 per ce take up.	exchange and has a 6.41 per cent interest.  Aegis, the media buyer which more than doubled half-year profits to and Sentry Farming continued to enjoy its results, up 33p to  Wiggins, the property developer which more than doubled half-year profits to assignificant property deal in its sights. The shares
## 25   25   25   25   25   25   25   25	Charactive Industries  47) 38. Argina Cod (197-11-22) 39.  47) 38. Argina Cod (197-11-22) 39.  47) 38. Argina Cod (197-11-22) 39.  27) 31 Argina Cod (198-11-11-22) 39.  27) 31 Argina Cod (198-11-11-22) 39.  28) 32 Billion Cod (198-11-11-22) 39.  28) 32 Billion Cod (198-11-11-22) 39.  28) 42 Billion Cod (198-11-11-22) 39.  28) 52 Billion Cod (198-11-11-22) 39.  29) 52 Billion Cod (198-11-11-22) 39.  20) 52 Billion Cod (198-11-11-22) 39.  21 Billion Cod (198-11-11-22) 39.  22 Billion Cod (198-11-11-22) 39.  23 Billion Cod (198-11-11-22) 39.  24 Billion Cod (198-11-11-22) 39.  25 Billion Cod (198-11-11-22) 39.  26 Billion Cod (198-11-11-22) 39.  27 Billion Cod (198-11-11-22) 39.  28 Billion Cod (198-11-11-22) 39.  29 Billion Cod (198-11-11-22) 39.  20 Billion Cod (198-11-11-22) 39.  21 Billion Cod (198-11-11-22) 39.  22 Billion Cod (198-11-	1996   1996	Share Price Data  Prices are in starting except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 200 per cent, as a percentings of the share price. The price learnings (PRE) ratio is the share price where the price of the share price where the price of the share of the
20 20 July 1 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	Commission of the commission o	ent Securities  Red Index 1996 Red I	Second Company   Control

## business

## Big corporate pay rises arm Labour for tax reform

ay after day, Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, is being handed juicy political windfalls by Britain's top companies. A succession of recent annual reports has listed large pay rises for direc-tors amounting to 10, 20 or 30 times the rate of inflation.

It is early in the annual reports season to be sure of what is happening in the corporate undergrowth. Most of the reports published so far have been for companies with December year-ends, and directors pay for those with March year-ends will not

be visible until late spring. But if the news so far is any indication of what is in store during the rest of the spring and summer, the Government ought to be seriously concerned at the potential impact as the election approaches. If this first batch of reports is in any way typi-cal, 1995 will be another year of head-lines about enormous pay rises at the top of corporate Britain as workforces are slashed and find their earn-

ast merit increase



INDUSTRY VIEW PETER RODGERS

Brown's speechwriters. Even a relatively modest increase, such as the II per cent awarded to Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays, did not go down well with staff unions which were disputing a 4.5 pay of-fer and who had just been told of an-other thousand redundancies.

And Sir Ronald Hampel, the chairman of the new committee on corporate governance, whose agenda includes reviewing the work of the Greenbury Committee on top pay, succeeded in muddying the waters still further when he took home 42 per cent more last year.

To be fair to him, his basic pay and bonus were down and he had changed jobs inside the company. But with timing that should have ings increases kept at or below the inflation rate, It will be a gift for Mr index inflation rate, It will be a gift for Mr index in the company's remuneration in the company's remuneration rose 47 per cent last year; Richard inflation rate, It will be a gift for Mr index in the company's remuneration rose 47 per cent last year; Richard in the company's remuneration rose 47 per cent last year; Richard in the company's remuneration rose 47 per cent last year; Richard in the company's remuneration rose 47 per cent last year; Richard in the company's remuneration rose 47 per cent last year; Richard in the company's remuneration rose 47 per cent last year; Richard in the company's remuneration rose 47 per cent last year; Richard in the company's remuneration rose 47 per cent last year; Richard in the company's remuneration rose 47 per cent last year; Richard in the company's remuneration rose 47 per cent last year; Richard in the company's remuneration rose 47 per cent last year; Richard in the company's remuneration rose 47 per cent last year; Richard in the company's remuneration rose 47 per cent last year; Richard in the company's remuneration rose 47 per cent last year; Richard in the company rose 47 per cent last year; Richard in the company rose 47 per cent last year; Richard in the company rose 47 per cent last year; Richard in the company rose 47 per cent last year; Richard in the company rose 47 per cent last year; Richard in the company rose 47 per cent last year; Richard in the company rose 47 per cent last year; Richard in the company rose 47 per cent last year; Richard in the company rose 47 per cent last year; Richard in the company rose 47 per cent last year; Richard in the company rose 47 per cent last year; Richard in the company rose 47 per cent last year; Richard in the company rose 47 per cent last year; Richard in the company rose 47 per cent last year; Richard in the company rose 47 per cent last year; Richard in the company rose 47 per cent last year; Richard in the company rose 47 per cent l

committee blush, a £425,000 longterm performance bonus brought his total take-home pay to £863,000. There has been a rather similar

trend in the United States as the presidential election approaches, so British business cannot be accused of being alone with its political blinkers. Business Week recently listed a series of pay increases at the top that it forecast would prove a gift to critics of big business on the US presidential election campaign trail. Average chief executive pay at large

\$4.37m in 1995. Ronald Compton, of Aetna Life & Casualty, was paid 485 per cent more at \$6.64m, though its shares rose 47 per cent last year; Richard

companies rose 23 per cent to

per cent more at \$11.93m, as the shares rose 36.7 per cent. In the US, high rewards are not regarded with quite the distaste they are in Britain, as long as they are accompanied by high perfor-mance. But Business Week concluded that another provocative pay season was beginning "just as the presi-dential election campaign is shifting into high gear. Not exactly the best time for the nation's CEOs to take

the money and run". So will John Major be presented, as the UK election approaches, with a re-run of the scandal that resulted from the last British executive pay round, in 1994? There are some differences. The rows over 1994 earnings resulted from the greed of directors of some privatised utilities, which overshadowed the rest of the private sector.

The utilities affair led to the Greenbury Committee, ostensibly at the instigation of the CB1. In fact, Michael Heseltine, then President of the Board of Trade, had privately urged employers to set up the committee to take the pressure out of a difficult situation in the Commons.

In 1995, pay awards at the utili-ties probably did moderate. Some of modified their share option schemes. British Gas directors as a group earned 47 per cent more, but largely because of golden handshakes and hellos for departing and arriving di-rectors. Cedric Brown, the retiring chief executive who was paid 75 per cent more in 1994, took a small pay cut in 1995, and the salary of Richard

Giordano, the chairman, was static. But the picture for 1995 may not ures are out, because many



the electricity companies dropped or Bad timing: Sir Ronald Hempel's hig rise fanned the flames

year. The FT-SE 100 rose by a fifth. The increases in the table (right) are taken from a random selection

of large company annual reports among the many that have been sent to this office in the last few weeks.

As a statistical sample, they are almost meaningless, of course. Means the same time, as NatWest showed in 1995 when

sector companies turned in good special circumstances to justify unprofits and dividend increases last usual increases – perhaps the maturing of a long-term performance scheme or a one-off contractual obligation to top up a pension re-sulting from the government cap on tax relief.

Within a boardroom, pay may go look so good – or bad, depending on your point of view – when all the figures are out because many private.

Surement of directors' pay is full of Derek Wanless, the chief executive, pitfalls and, when it comes to the decrease of the decr

a 24 per cent cut from £1.46m to £1.12m. And there may be genuine market pressure on executive pay.
The 50 per cent increase to
£651,000 of David Barnes at Zeneca

Gale away

leaves him still far below the £1.8m of Jan Leschly at Smithkline Beecham and the £2.4m Sir Richard Sykes earned at Glazo in the 18 months to December.

Indeed, the public perception that British boardrooms all had their snowts in the trough in 1994 turned out to be misleading when de-tailed surveys by actuaries and accountants were published last autumn. The average increase was slightly down on 1993.

As the chart of merit increases for directors in 1994 shows, most were in fact quite restrained. The ones that grah the headlines, with increases above 15 per cent, are a small fraction of the total, though it does not take many of them to create a political embarrassment.

There were some signs of common sense. In 1995 British Aerospace directors took a 3 per cent rise after nearly doubling profits. In line with the Greenbury Report recommendations, they were given a new long. term incentive scheme.

These have the advantage of being linked more closely to performance than bonuses and share options. But they are also deferred pay, restraining present increases in return for potentially bigger re-wards later. Even if 1995 turns out to be more restrained than the first results suggest, the pay bandwagon will roll on for many more years yet.

That must make the highest paid a tempting tax target for a Labour Chancellor, Directors who cannot ex-

7 3<u>11.</u>

200	ange	Name	Position	Сотрату	Pay	Increase %
180 - 160 - 140 - 120 - 100 - 80 - 60 - 10	A Weadraw surviv	David Barnes Derek Wanless Sir Ronald Hampel Richard Gamble John Carter Mike Pink Mex Hastings Stephen Maran Keith Bradshaw	chief executive chief executive chief executive chief executive chief executive former director chief executive chairman	Zeneca NatWest ICI Royal Insurance Commercial Union Enterprise Oil Telegraph Lloyds Abbey Life Takare	£651,000 £594,000 £836,000 £430,000 £468,000 £290,000 £533,000 £372,000 £201,000	50% 19% 42% 19% 26% 81% 65% 78%
40-	Bacen	Pension top ops Sir Michael Perry Sir Colin Chandler	chairman chief executive	Unilever Vickers	£1.96 million £1.2 million	
0 ni 24 68 10-15 15-20	20> S	Handshake	two directors	British Gas	£545,000	
oreign Exchange Rates			Inte	erest Rates		
Sterling 5	Spot	1 month 3 months	D-Mark UK Sase Franci	Germa 600% Discour e Lomba	nt 3.00% P	IS Trime 8.75% Discount 5.00%

Foreign	Exc	hang	e Rat	es				Intere	st R	ates							
Sterling				Dollar			D-Mark	UK		Germ	апу		US		Japa	n	
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	Base	6.00%	Disco		3.00%	Prime	8.75%			050%
US	15137	7.5	19-16	1900		_	0.6661	France		Lornio		500%	Discount	5.00%		um	
Canada	20528	n-3	50-37	13562	2-1	2-0	0.9034	intervention	1 370%	Cane			Fed Funds	525%			300%
Germany	2.2725	55-48	157-147	15013	28-26	80-76	10000	Italy		Prime		700%	Spaln		Centr	-	330%
France	7,7217	140-11B	371-340	51012	64-57	164-154	33979	Discount	800%	Disco	LED)	550%	10-Day Rep	o 7.75%	Switz	erland	
taly	23741	75-90	221-246	15684	57-64	170-182	104468	Netherland	ds	Denn	ıark		Sweden		Disco		150%
laoan	164.22	75-70	225-218	108.49	45-44	136-133	72.2540	Advances	300%	Disco	unt	3.75%	Repo (Ave)	760%	Lomb	ard.	4325%
ECU	12155	15-11	45-40	12454	7-8	23-25	05348	, <del></del>									
Belgrum	45673	12.9	34-29	30834	58-48	17.2-14.7	205382	Bond	Yield	•							
Denmark	8.7719	138-95	411-317	57950	60-40	175-125	3.8600	1		_						Streets Re	
Vetherlands	25384	83-54	189-175	16769	32-29	96-91	1170	Country	ght 1	rield %	10yr	yleki %	Country	Бут	yield %	10ут	yield %
reland	0.9677	9-5	25-20	15643	3-6	6-10	0.4258	UK	800%	757	84.96	8.14	Netherlands	9%	5.47	6%	5.49
Vorway	98240	116-64	329-233	6.4901	42-17	110-60	4.3230	us	5/4	648	5 Yes	685	Span	107/4	8.91	10.15%	959
Spain	190.26	39-48	117-134	2569	32-36	97-105	83,7208	Japan	6.4%	198	31%	323	Italy	101/%	998	10%	10.56
Sweden	10:152	9-15	23-34	6.706B	96-123	260-310	44673	Australia	84%	8.77	10%	906	Balgium	748	549	8'4'4	675
boshectwa	18434	68-60	197-185	12178	38-35	111-105	08112	Germany	5704	548	6%	652	Sweden	11%	7.78	6%	244
estrala*	19179	20-31	67-85	12669	19-21	54-56	08439	France	57%	569	74%	658	ECU OAT	94%	620	71/2	707
long Kong	11.705	101-61	224-170	7,7327	2-12	15-35	51507		allend on to	cal bases	•		400	w benchm	-4	• • •	
Aplaysia	3.8035	0-0	0-0	25127	4-14	60-30	16737										
New Zealand		43-57	133-156	14775	30-32	88-90	0.9842	Money	Mail V	rket	Rati	20					
Saudi Arabia	56772	0.0	0.0	3,7505	2.7	9-14	24982	1110110	34344								
ingapore	21309	0-0	0-0		41-30	103-88	0.9377			ONigh	τ	7 Day	1 Month		6 Mor	STORE .	1 Year
nigation o			0.0	HOID	41-00	MAJ-OQ I	(III)	Interbank		6 5	4 6	Da 584	5% 6	6 64			64 64
Other S	pot	Rate	S					Sterling CDs Local Autho		54	5	20	6 5≈ <sub>14</sub>	8	614		63 <u>≈</u> 63∗
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ustria	15.981		105576	Oman		0.5829	03850	Dollar CDs		•			513	5.16	531		565
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thina.	12615		83324	Philippi		9.7274	262400							_		_	
gypt	5.152		34045	Portug		33534	154.280	Touris	t Rai	25							
inland	7,111		4.6973	Oatar		55110	3645										
hana	2394.20		158200	Russia	7	436.77	491200	£ Buys			£ Bu			£B			
reece	366.85		242.310	South		12907	4,2550	Australia(Do		18500	France	e(Francs)	7,4400		Zeeland(C	)olars)	2,600
ndia	51.7680		342000	Tawan		411430	27.1750	Austrie (Schi		153500	Germ	ony (Marke			ay(Krone		95400
uwad	0.4548		03004	UAE		55612	36732	Belgium(Fra	nes	450000		e(Drachm		Portu	gal(Escur	tos) 2	26.7500
								Canada (Dol	ars)	19975	Hong	Kong(Dol	ars) 11.4800	) Spear	(Pesetas)	1	83,5000
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ontract		Settlement price		igh Low lor day	EstCents	Open
ng Gilt	(Jun 96)	101-94	125-17		\$3499	C221
erman Scad	(Jun 96)		9536 9621		227536	2-291
S Bond San Bond	(Jun 96)	1863	1971 1234		2205 4527	46:34
Stering	Clury 967	9353	52.94		5359	81915
CENT	(Sep 96)	9372	9374		*58CC	52390
Euro Yen	Ckm 96)	9919	99:3		236	0
	(Sep 96)	9894	9894		\$37	2
Euromark	(Jun 96)	9675	96.90		\$0543	22579
	(Sep 96)	96.69	9673		39025	225842
cu	(Jun 96)	9555	9556		482	8251
ro SFr	(Sep 96) (Jun 95)	9550 9612	96.52 98.4	95.C4	549 8232	38379 26379
SE 100	Liun 96	37400	37729		14467	59230
SE 250	Liun 96i	44160	4460		50	35:9
rolira	(Jun 96)	9079	9087	9175	T292	36717
nergy		113/27 135/47 157/65	78/42 104/66 727/84	50:54 75:98 88:106	30:34 53:115 76:153	:
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y 22.70	+100 16.56	Apr 19300	+050	May 2500	Leader Gastin	232.234
	+069 16.55	May 188.50		Jun 2270	Machana	208/210
1912	+0.45 1553	Jun 17800	4 51 75	July 2728	EC Gascal	193,196
	Index: 21.39			Aug 2000	Heavy Fuel Oil	109/111
			0 13 Marie.	322 030		
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<b>e</b> x .	1970=100		+131	-	-592 2204	
cultural	1970=100		+2.24		+902 24432	+2573
agy	1983 - 100		+140		+676 6175	+23.29
st'i Metals	1977=100		+065	193.32	-335 205.78	-920
stock	1970=100	186.74	-0.74		+221 17258	+820
cious Metals	1973=100	50809	+013		+270 50257	+010

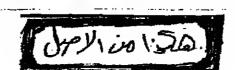
In	idustr	ial M	etal	s			London	Metel Ex	change
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	Settlement exchange mi		1.514A	\$/Dr. 15013		A4 57	Stock volume as at Tues 3 /		in tonne
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	r spol			tarvila.25 cz		87	Nobles		264/74
Gold	Buth	394 260	367 Bri	tarvie.10 cz	51	34	Maple Leef	398/412	283/72
Ą	gricul	tural							CMS
Coc	<b>34</b>	Coffe	•	Backey		Pote	ioos	Potelos	
LŒ	Chorne	LCE	Simme	LCE	S/Iome	FCE	£/tones	ADA CHI	1004
War	988	Mar	1911	Mar	113.50	Apr	153.50	Apr	22
tay	1016	May	1859	May	11150	May	22500	May	23
kıly	7044	July	1849	Sept	114.00	Jun	10500	Jun	25
M:	8829	Vol	6,322	Val:	47	Vot:	78	Vol	176
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*Dollar rates quoted For the latest foreign Calls cost 36p per n	exchar	nge rate	s call 0					Denmark(K Holland(Gu Finland(Mar
Stock	Sell	Buy	Yld	Stock	Sell	Buy	Yld	Stock
AXA Equity & Law Un AXA Equity & Law Hee, C	it Trust I	Mariage:	3	Managed Fund Managed Fund Acc	76.21	8107 10584	d2.90 d2.90	FP Jap Sch FP Monthly
Coverby CV1 1GD Tet; 01203 663231	bor-un			UK Growth Funds				Accum Uni FP Sterling
General Acc	6479	589.3	d2:57	Smaller Cos Acc	49.71 58.79	52.68 62.54	d157	(Accum Uni
General Inc LIK Growth Acc	5504 4334	5856 4673	d2:57 d2:78	UK & General UK & General Acc	880SF	9807 12860	d2.70	IP Tokyo (Accum Unit
UK Growth Inc Higher Inc Acc	286.5 786 t	307D 8363	d2.76	UK Growth Internetional Growth	190sii Punda	18214	d146	FP UK Focus
Higher Inc Inc Gits/Fed Int Acc	428.8 204.2	456.2 2156	d4.26	Europe Growth Far Eastern Growth	21472	227.79	d061	FP UK Grow IAccum Unit
Gitte/Fres Int Inc	9136	96.50	d5.70	Global Bond	14501 82.34	154.27 8754	d566	Stowardship (Accum Unit
Nin America Europe	352.3	3920 3748	d040	Giothel Bond Acc Japan Growth	85.41 123.00	19143 13087	45.86 40.00	(Accum Unit Stwedship in
Japan Tet Acc Pacific Basin Tet Acc	4940	52.58 4578	d000	North American Growth Oriental Growth	8843	242.39 84.07	d000 d028	Am Studsh
Brit Excell Brit Fnormis Acc	6700 1141	9C.56	292 d485	Worldwide Growth	7578	8062	d030	(Accum Unit
Brit Findmits Inc	76.23	8323	d485	Worldwide Growth Acc Other CU Unit Trusts	(non PP			Gartmore Po
Global Opps Balanced Acc	103.9 62.86	110g 66.67	0.24 62.86	CUDOS Japan Equity CUDOS UK Equity	112.16 106.33	10814	227	16-15 Monum Tel: 0171-782
Balanced Inc Sarciays Unicom Lim	5940 Harri	63.20	d2.66	CUDOS US Equity Deposit Fund	110.90 91.55	112.35 91.55	103	UK Growth
11 Broadway, Stratford, I		15 48J		Deposit Fund Acc	103.85	103.85	<b>(529</b>	British Grow Cash Trust
Tet: 0181 5345544 Belanced Trusts				Homemaker Fund Outlier Fund	9164 15330	97A9 182.57	155	Practical Inv
Stat Inv Fd Acc Stat Inv Fd Inc	8640 416A	800g 4338	25	CU Morley (tinty Gool	180 B	191 <i>68</i> Jan 1941 L	192	Do (Accum) UK Index
European Bd Acc European Bd Inc	1125 9521	118.5 98.56	6.59 6.59	Exempt Unit Trust	20651	21180	219	UK Smeller (
Exempt	80.17	8548	383	Framilington Unit Ming 186 Blahopagate, London	ECZW 3	FT		Extra Yeld High Income
Financial 500	9595 5028	102.3 543.5	242 d2.49	Tel: 0171-374 4190, Deeli American Growth	PG 0171 3	30 <b>t</b> 500 82.82	dago	UK Equity in Global Bond
General Property	316.2 241.9	3385 2596	d2.53 d6.29	(Accum Units)	77.76	82.82	9000	Internations Emerging M Global Mans
Trustee Income Truste	2184	2335	234	Amer Smir Cos (Accum Units)	984.2 676.5	7104	000	Global Mans Gold & Ind P
Cash Acc	1218	1216	53	Capital Tet (Accum Units)	375.2 5481	3981 5831	d124	Global Utilitie Oversees F
Cash inc Distribution	1002	1002	d5.3 d6.25	Cond Smir Cos (Accum (Inits)	65.64	69.63 75.66	075	Oversees F American
Extra income Git & Fed Int <sup>a</sup>	132.4 56.91	141.6 68.81	d489 d8.25	Convertible	1408 2969	1498	517	European
Income Builder	5608 66.51	6212 7308	4.71	(Accum Units) Emerging Markets	7046	3160 7628	517 000	Euro Sel Op American Er
ind income	7085	75.16	302	(Accum Units) European	707 1438	78.63 157.6	800 838	Hong Kong Japan
Growth Truets - UK Cepital	1370	1461	213	(Accum Units) Exempt Balanced	1612 7606	7756	0.36 2.57	Pacific Grow Gertmore P
Growth Acc Lebutt (2)	401 172.7	437A 1847	231 084	(Accum Units) Extra income	3900	82A 4043	257 378	Menaged Ed Long Term B
Recovery Smir Cos Acc	478.0 63181	512.2 68.42	289 204	(Accum Units)	5014	6292	376	Med Term Br
Smir Cos inc Spacel Site	56.00 375.9	56.98 402.0	204	(Accum Units)	1618 1713 6256	1721	040	UK Emerging
Growth Trusts - Oven America	1713	1621	0.22	(Accum Linits)	94.56	645 9754	d6.79 d6.79	American Japan
Armer Recovery Acc.	7261	1345		Health Fund Inc Health Fund Acc	2733 2783	292.0 292.0	000	European Index Linked
Aust Acc	2321 1761	3720 1861	207 207	(Accum Units)	2273 3553	246.B 378.D	323	Flood interes Amer Emerg
Euro Gwrth Acc Euro Gwrth Inc	2030 1680 1687	215.5 1986	067 057	int Growth (Accum Units)	4378	4685 5179	000	Pacific Emerging W
Japan & Gen Acc Japan & Gen Inc	1848	1765	d	Japan & Gen (Accum Units)	1882 1900	202.0	4000	Index Strat J
Japan Spec Site Worldwide	75.83 1897	6033 2120	0.55	Mgd Distribution inc (Accum Units)	539 5659	66.56 58.62	434	index Stret P Index Stret C Index Stret U
Also known as income i	Ulamagar 1			Managed Porticile inc	1205	125.8	d186	Overseas Br
Baring Fund Manager PO Box 831, 198 Bleacps	s Lid gate,			(Accum Linits) Monghly Income	1909 1885	1378 2005	d185 d484	Gartmore P Managed Eq Med Term B
Longon (51206 315 Eng: 0171 762 8450				Quarterly income (Accum Units)	5819 62.86	605 67,99	d440	Med Term By Long Term B UK Equity
American Growth American Smir Con	1246 1536	1318 1774	89	Recovery (Accum Units)	3698 4362	3953 4655	06	UK Emerging
Convertities Essiste	50.04 325.6	64.38 3516	049 03	UK Growin (Actum Units)	65.46 69.37	6984 73.6	210	American Japan
Equity income European Growth	9431 3662	1008	38 QA					European Food Interes
Europe Select Exempt	3271 3034	3483 1963	19 30	Priends Provident Unit Enterprise Hos. Insuland Portagodh Hants PO1 &	Strunal R	ш,		Inder Linked
Exempt Flood Interest	102.0	1031	80	Enquiries: 01705 861340   FP Managed Portfolio	Deeting; ( Service	11705 881	330	Deposit Emerging Ma
German Growth Global Bond	86.43 69.96	91.66 73.67	05 66	Capital Gwith Acc Option Capital Gwith Acc	12620	135.00	123	Pecific Senior Unit
Global Growth Japan Growth	145.2 213.3	1979 2277	0A 00	Cap Gwth w Income inc (Accum Units)		126.80	250 250	BWH Internal Briancell Gift
Japan Sunnisa Korea Trust	1706 76.24	781.7 831.21	8	Open Cap Gwith wine i (Acount Units)	re12080	126.20	352	Do (Accum) Brievalli inc
Portiolio Portiolio Acc	144d 2886	154.3 258.9	23 23	Punk Trusts			352	Do (Accum) Briarciiff Wes
LIK Growth LIK Smaller Cos	96.70 \$1.87	1)4.0 39.68	28 25	P American (Accum Units)	68:16 68.01	62.93 70.22	039 039	Straw Utilities
Select Managers	8842	94.79	φū	FP Amer Smile Cos	19940 30140	21320 12230	000	Govett (John 4 Bettle Bridge
Charity Fund Overseas Gwth Exemp	7556	78.64	며	(Acoum Units)	31350 41580	335.20	000	Tat: 0171 378 7
Commercial Union Tit	upt Manu	ganı		(Accum Units)	47110	80640 20980	000	UK Equity inc UK Small Co
Prestige Portfolio (PP Income Funds			<b></b> -	(Accum Units) FP Equity	272.30 297.70	31670	025 025	Sritish Grows American Ge
Equity Income Equity Income Acc	18154 67718	199,23 720,35	64.75 64.75	(Accum Units)	449.80 96170	47210 102300	254 254	Japan Gwth Greater Chira
Fixed & Convertible Fixed & Convt Acc	4087 12782	43.27	d0.72 d6.72	FRAM Inst UK Sm Co in (Accum Units)	10420 10420	10510	505 505	Pacific Strate
Monthly Income Plus	4845	81.64	d8.69	P International Bond	60.25	10910 63.78	605	European Ge Inst Growth
Wonthly Income Plus As Preference Share	-8.7	95.52 4919	d030	(Accum Units) FP Ind Genth	162.60 38.78	172.20 44.38	508 941	US Index
Preference Share Acc Balanced Funds	26797	305.34	0000	(Acoum Units) FP Pacific Begin Accum	5622 23320	5042 24920	000 047	Manahiy Inco
High Yield High Yield Acc	13217 59683	140£1 634.71	0607 0607	IP income (Accum Units)	<del>59</del> .00	82.93 212.60	495	UK Sedeguen
rigit TIME ACC	9	WA/I	word!	( A-street Guille)	19840	2280	-50	MAS Unit Thy

Aarks)	70200	Mate	Krit	05325 TURRE	d States	Dollars)	14750	,
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	Sell	Boy	Yld	Stock	Sell	Buy	Yīd	1
in Cos Accum	31960	34070	000	Hong Kong Index	25,4446	289745	350	
ify Distribution Inital	74.70 130.80	79.72 139.50	Ø562	Hong Kong Beer UK Index		£94484	350 475	1
ng Deposit Units)	100.20	100.20	4535	Japan Index	£11,7080	2123716	000	
	113.60 66.71	94,62	ODG	Clum	\$18.4087 £95800	296278	350 525	1
unital) CLUS	99.61 41.58	9558 4470	d2.56	UK Beer Japan Bear	29,0296	267628 285404	4.75 0.00	
Jenitus) roweth	5050 29240	5440 205-20		US Beer Doller Buil	250058 250058	\$75013 \$759608	350	} (
miter	381.00	40720	254	Dollar Bear Gar Buil	26.5558 211.2233	269202	475	
hip Inits)	40.30 510.70	43640 54320	178	GIR Beer	268863	272765	475	
inc Initia)	80.22 107.70	8534 TA50	477	Legal & General (UT 5 Rayleigh Rd, Hetton, 1 Enquiries: 01277 227300	Marage: rentwood	s) Lid Essex		
shp Inita)	121.60	12830	071	Enquiries: 01277 227300 Cash Accum	Dealing: 68.00	01277 890 58,00	395 555	H
Fond Manag	pers			Equity Dist	562.20 114500	59810	d2.61 d2.61	1
icente, ment St. Lond	ten ECSR	000		Equity Accum Equity Income LIK Taction Allocation	104.20	1210.00	4.50	
82 2000 Dealin sh Funda	g only: 01	277-204	421	LIK Tactical Allocation European	6402 142.70	6799 15180	110	1
gwith St	5650 14340	82.61 143.40	187 d6.32	For Eastern Flood Improces	24770 52.48	263.50 55.84	6731	
inv (inc)	12261	13133	d2.61	Gilt Global Growth	86.71	92.59	05.70 0.25	Lá
m)	25836 17371	30926 17458	d3.31	inti Bond	95.22	5664	534	1 :
r Cos	166.27	177.83	0.66	North American	7796 20450	217.90	084	13
d me	3426	25.09 36.40	720 520	Pacific Growth UK Index	12790 73.90	13630 77.60	d007	H
Income	15480 2986	165.56 31.05	312 d5.22	UK Recovery UK Smaller Cos	11170	16430	193 132	1
and onal Funds				UK Stockmerket Acc	8050	67.73 8496	401 131	11
Marietz ineged* il Ras	47.53 152.91	5094 16265	d000 4128	Europeen Index	9125	9631 4635	1.75	H
96	12703	13586 15730	083 143	Japan Inda. Workwide	9804	10430	142	) }
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Done.	133.29 201.26	14L29 213.66	000	Te≵ C1534 936900 Death	G: 01634 8 388.80	45170	253	1 5
Opps Emerging St	163.74 165.08	17612	000 d178	Balanced Inc Balanced Acc	90740 7985	96540	253 063	] 7
gwth	282.45 239.82	27902 25649	000	Cont Europe Gr Inc Cont Europe Gr Acc	6672	2024	0.63	10 20
Pensions St	rategy Fe	ande		Extra income inc Extra income Acc	282.00 758.20	300.00 806.70	403 403 285	E
Equity Bel	254,78 273,92	254.78 273.92	d2.04 d2.83	FT-SE 100 Inc	716.80 118.90	12450 12650	285 286	
Bed	223.94 290.97	22394 290 <i>9</i> 7	252	Georgen Growth Inc	13830	14549		5
ing Cols	172.67 311.37	172.57	192	German Growth Acc Growth Portfolio Inc Growth Portfolio Acc	646-80	66790 70630		1 2
	143.00	143.60	9000	High interest inc High interest Acc	9484 9736	10090	6810 830	1
ard Gift	17834	17814	2.59 6.63	Income inc	534.90 1484.00	56930 197900	346 346	1
rging Cos	36643	355A3 26403	0000 0.75	income Portiolio inc	54860	583.70 840.80	4,47	Û
Mits f Japan	25403 12851 18045	2851 18045	035	Income Portfolio Acc Japan Growth Inc Japan Growth Acc	115.30	123.60	447	[ 6
Pacific Plint	21670 18871	216.70 186.71	123 167	Master Thust Inc	116.70 6688	713	138	71
t Conti Eu t USA	151.38	161,38	1.76	Master Trust Acc American & Gen Inc	75.95 29730	8080 25230	138 003	CI De
Bond Strategy Personal Pe	y 106651 poslon Pa		<b>65.73</b>	American & Gan Acc Am Sm Cos & Rec Inc	274.20) 197.70	29180 21040	003	1 2
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## x reform

## \* Gales Cavalier blows away Viking Flagship

RICHARD EDMONDSON reports from Cheitenham

They had prepared the garlands here yesterday but they forgot to send out the scripts. Cheltenham's prestige races hoth went to the spear carriers as the coronations for both Viking Flagship and Mole Board had to be cancelled.

Viking Flagship was a cootestant in a race which seemed to be the product of a round of Chinese whispers, the Faucets For Mira Rada Showers Silver Trophy Chase. Victory here would have made him only the secood British-trained jumps horse, following Desert Orchid to earn over £500,000 in

This milestone seemed an inevitability for much of the jour-sey as Viking Flagship travelled sweetly in behind the pathfinder, Gales Cavalier. At the final obstacle all that remained was for the nine-year-old to unfurl his trademark hravery and bat-

RESULTS

CHELTENHAM

1.55: 1. FIVE TO SEVEN (P Corbory)
9-2: 2. Rhossill Bay 8-1; 3. Mr President
3-1 fav. 9 ran. 10, 3. (C Thornton, Middehaml. Tota: £6.40; £2.00, £1.80, £1.90, DF:
£30.30. CSP: £36.02. Troast: £112.58. Trio:

2.30:1. HOPS AND POPS (R Durwoody)

2-30::1. HOPS AND POPS (R Dunwoody)
5-1; 2. Mole Board 9-4; 3. Bore Eight
7-4 fav. 4 ran. Hd, 3. (R Alner, Blandford Fo-rum), Totes 25:30. DF: 25:90, CSF: £14.40.
3.05: 1. GALES CAVALIER (M Dwyer)
7-1; 2. Viking Flaggable 4-9 fav. 3. Trava-do 11-4. 8 ran. 3/4, dist. (D Gandolfo, Wan-tage), Totes £4.80. DF: £1.90, CSF: £10.28.
3.40.4. Allies GOTTABET (G lebraration)

2891. 1000: 12.80. DF: 21.90, CSF: £10.28.
2.40: 1. MISS OPTANEST (R Johnson)
9-1; 2. Jimmay's Cross 9-1; 3. Phyling Gaisson 20-1. 10 ran. 5-2 few Yara Rampler (Stri).
3, 14x. ID Nicholson, Temple Guting). Your
£12.40; £2.80, £2.10, £3.30. DF: £62.80,
CSF: £79.02. Tricast: £1,441.63. Tric:
£195.00,
4.15: 4. PROND SUN (M.A. STREEBER).

4.15: 1. PROUD SUN (M A Fitzgerald)

7-2; 2. Le Melile 8-1; 3. General Rust 7-4 tav. 7 ran. 4, 2. (S Pike, Sidmoutt), Tota

£4.90; £2.70, £3.40. DF; £22.30. CSF;

Chicodari 7-4 fav. 3. Forestal 9-2. 5 ran. Vc. 21. (N Twiston-Davies, Cheltenham), Tote: £4.30; £1.50. £1.60. DF: £3.70, CSF:

Place of: £5,614.40. Quadpot: £211.20. Place 6: £3,494.30. Place 5: £1,830.53.

FORTWELL,
2.10: 1 PRINCE NASHA (D Waleh)
10.3; 2. Quilet Dawn 6-4 fav: 3. Miss Plenpernel 20-1. 13 ran. 3, 7. (K Cunninghambrown), 7ote: £5.40; £1.80, £1.50, £6.50.
DF: £4.10. CSF: £8.40. Treast: £30.40. Tho:

2.45,1. HERBERT BUCHANAN (Mr.) Cul-loy) 5-2; 2. Pontoon Bridge 5-4 fay; 3. Cobb Gate 10-1. 11 ran. 1½, 4. (P Nicholis). Tota:

F4 10: F1 60: E1 60: E1 60: DE: F4 40: CSP E6.58, Tho: £9.80, NR: Challenger Row. 3.20:1, KEEL ROW (Mr.) Culoty) 8-1; 2, Armazer 7-2 fav; 3. Moyresha House 4-1, 13 ran. Nk, 13/4. (T. Thomson Jones). Tota:

£10.10; £1.80, £1.60, £2.00. DF: £14.90. CSF: £34.70, Theast: £120.72. Thio: £12.50. 3.56, 1. DONNA DEL LAGO (8 Citiora)

9-2 fav; 2. Harristown Lady 6-1; 3. Cythere 9-1, 11 rank shind, 13/4. (G McCourt). Tota:

£5.00; £2.50, £3.50, £2.60. DF: £25.80. CSF: £30.71, Tricest: £218.50. Tric: £63.60. 4.30; 1. BALLYEDWARD (8 Powell)

16-1; 2. Warfield Lad 11-4 to for; 3. Pre-toria Dancer 11-4 to fav. 8 ron. 11-4 to tw Rung's Lass (pulled up). 1½, 19. (R Buck-ler). Tota: £17.30; £2.30, £1.40, £1.60. DF:

5.05 :1. FROZEN SEA (IR Kararam) Evens fav; 2. Vanota 50-1; 3. First Class 50-1. 15 mm. 6, nk. (6 Emigro, Tote: £1.90; £2.10, £17.10, £15.10. DF: £344.00. CSF: £62.79. NR: Millfrone. Trio: not won, pool of £691.68 Place 8: £11.72. Place 5: £8.41.

HAMILTON

5-4 (r. Br.) 2. Spaner Passers 7-4 (r. Br.) 4-4 (r. Br.)

£20.10. CSF: £21.49. Tricast: £143.23. Tric: £69.10. 2.55:1. FOREST BOY (J FEgan) 11-2; 2.

Set Tough 7-2: 3. Domino Flyer 16-1. 8 ran. 5-2 fav Dungson Princess (6th). 11/4, 37/2. (K.Medutifs, Lambourn). Tote: £6.60; £1.90. £1.50. £3.40, DF: £11.90. CSF: £24.02. 3.20: 1. MY GALLERY (Argeis Gallmore) 3-1 tay; 2. Misser Westsound 9-1: 3. Gar-

8.30:1. MY GALLERY (Argela Gallmore)
3-1 fav; 2. Waster Westsound 9-1: 3. Garneck Valley 10-1; 4. Parriter 12-1. 17 ran.
NK, 1. (A Baley, Tarporley), Tote: 55.10;
£2.10, £2.30, £2.60, £3.20. DF: £28.40.
CSF: £30.55, Tricast £243.65. Tric. £58.60.
4.06:1. EXPRESS GIRL (Derren Moffatt)
£31; 2. Pm Still Here 11-10 fav; 3. Irish
Piction 6-4, 4 ran. 1¼, 2½-(D Moffatt, Carl
mel). Tote: £12.20. DF: £8.80. CSF: £50.96.
4.40:1. £AID DE COLORNE (Dean McF-

4-1: 2. Montainsamythin 6-1; 3. As-Works 7-2 tav. 8 ran. 142, 11. (C

Thornton, Middlehaml, Tote: £5.50; £1.50. £1.90, £1.70. DF: £16.60. CSF: £25.74. Tno:

2. Strawet 5-2 fav; 3. Pelace of Gold 10-1. 15 ran. 4c, 194. (C Thomton, Mid-dieham). Tote: £7.70; £3.60, £2.30, £3.40, DF: £15.80, CSP: £23.40, Tocast: £159.28.

Jackpot: not won, pool of £53,147.21 car-led forward to the meeting at Notinghem this

amemoon. Placepot: £1.069.10. Quadpot: £124.80. Place 6: £910.29. Place 5: £509.89.

RACELINE

BEVERLEY 101 201 BRIGHTON 102 202 NOTT'HAM 103 203

MINDEPENDENT

RACING SERVICES

PUL RESULTS SERVICE

BRIGHTON

Trick £86.80.

5.15: 1. LORD HASTIE (O Pears) 13-2;

1 Total £5.50: £1.50.

2.20 . 1. RAMBO WALTZER (Jo Humam)

£24.30, CSF: £56.14.

4.50:1. RAMSDENS (C Unweller) 7-2:2.

tle home. But, for once, the surge was not there and Gales Cavalier held on by three-quarters of a length.

David Nicholson, who trains the runner-up, is not used to putting on a brave face with this horse and his features never really got past the disappointed stage. The visage may he dif-

> RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: So Amazing (Beverley 4.50) NB: Prima Silk (Brighton 3.10)

ferent following the BMW Handicap Chase at Punchestown later this mooth.

Further ahead, Viking Flagship may he at Kemptoo oo Boxing Day for the King George VI Chase, when yesterday's conqueror could be among his opponents. "He'll certainly be running over a trip next season," David Gandolfo, Gales Cavalier's trainer, said. At 14. Mole Board may be

his age in the paddock before the Mitie Group Hurdle. The old horse pranced around the oval like a bather negotiating hot sands to get to the sea.

In the race itself he too had a trailblazer to catch as Hops And Pops powered away. Un-like Viking Flagship Mole Board actually got his frame in froot oo the run-in, but, just as the crowd hailed the veteran, fatigue set in and the mare passed him close home. If Mole Board had won, Jim

Old, his traioer, would doubtlessly have embarked oo a retirement speech but now it seems there may be yet another last hurrah. After a summer holiday, he could be back in training. "If in November he's sparkling we might try again with him," Old said. "But we're anxious not to run him if he is deteriorating. He still loves it all, his work at home and his racing. He's a great enthusiast."

Hops and Pops, like Gales Cavalier, was both the outsider and youngest horse in ooe of

tory, but there was little sign of several small fields, perhaps in keeping with a new-look Chel-Both Tattersalls stands at

Prestbury Park have been demolished since the Festival and by March next year a £10m development will be in their place. There were almost as many bulldozers as horses at the foot of Cleeve Hill yesterday. The area around the finishing post is oow dominated by piles of con-crete and twisted metal. In keeping with the mood of the thrifty 90s, the rubble of the old buildings is being used for the foundations of the new.

There is a modernisation too io the jockeys' division, with a fresh came to be added to the title scroll at the end of the season. Few doubt that will be Tony McCoy, who rode trebles on the first three days this week but ran dry of good fortune yesterday.

The Irishman went to ground after Polden Pride capitulated in yesterday's opener and was taken to hospital with a wrist injury. He was later discharged and will ride at Ascot tomorrow.



Get a grip: novice steeplechasers and their riders take Fontwell's first fence yesterday Photograph: David Ashdown

### **Godolphin team losing esteem**

The Godolphin hopes for this failed to sparkle wheo she was at the centre of last year's split season's Classics drifted in the ante-post markets after failing to impress in their trials at Nad Al Sheba racecourse in Dubai yesterday.

Mark Of Esteem seemed to put up a reasonably satisfactory display in his test but William Hill pushed the colt out from 7-1 to 9-1 for the 2,000 Guineas. Godolphin's 1,000 Guineas challenger, Bint Shadayid,

put through her paces. Hills between Sheikh Mohammed made her an 8-1 chance (from

7-1).
"The trials overall went fine but we wouldn't want to be too upheat about things at this stage," Simon Crisford, Godol-phin's racing manager, said.

Mark Of Esteem was one of eight horses added to the Derby eotries at yesterday's supplementary stage. This colt was

and Henry Cecil.

The eight oew entries, at a cost of £8,000 each, also inchided Cecil's unraced Clever Cliche. The other six were: Beauchamp King (J Dunlop), Booarelli (M Stoote), Glory Of Dancer (P Kelleway), Shaamit (W Haggas), Spinning World (J Pease; France), and Tagula (I Balding).

Year's ban for Hoad

Roger Hoad had his licence withdrawn for just over a year yesterday for misleading Jockey Club officials over a positive test returned by a stable runner.

Elburg, from Hoad's Sussex yard, tested positive for a pro-hibitive substance after winning at Pontefract last year. The 52-year-old trainer was fined £1,000 and lost his licence to train from next Wednesday.

#### BRIGHTON

very close to ear-trumpet terri-

2.10 Masterstroke 2.40 Shikari's Son 3.10 Pri-ma Silk 3.40 Champagne Grandy 4.10 Spillo 4.40 PARADISE WATERS (nap) 5.10 Soaking

GOING: Firm.

STALLS: 1m 2f & 1m4f – outside; remainder – inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers best over 5f & 6f.

Left-tund, U-shaped course, undnihning and sharp.

Racecourse is east of town, Follow algaposts from town centre. Brighton railway station is a mile sway (fast service from Landon Victoria), ADMISSION: Chb 312 (secompanied under-16s free); Tattersalls £8; Silver Ring £4 (inc £4 per car). SIS RACING

BLINERED FOR THE FIRST TIME: Ever Friends (4.40).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None,
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: My Benniffal Dream (4.10) sert 208
miles from a Newcombe's Houtshaw stable in Devon.

2.10 MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) £3,450 added 2YO 5f 59yds 3 MASTERSTRORE (8) 8 Mechan 8 0 8 Doyle 1.
OUR REVAN K McAulific 9 0 9 5 Sanders 3
3 SALTY BEHAVIOUR (8) R Hermon 9 0 Diese O'Nelli (5) 4
MOLIELY M Cusanon 8 8 Candy Morris 8
NORSTROALE SONG Morryn Meade 8 9 7 Red 5
ROYAL EMBLEM A Foster 8 9 R Winterfield (7) 2

2.40 ELM GROVE CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,450 added 67

BETTING: 2-1 Rockville Plac. 5-2 Station 7's Son. 8-1 Coder Dancer, Dathrah

3.10 BRIGHTON SPRING HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,100 added 6f 

4.40 SHEEPCOTE VALLEY HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,450 added 1m 4f

3.40 HOLLINGBURY LIMITED STAKES (CLASS D) £5,100 added 7f

4.10 MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) £3,450 added 3YO 1m 2f

ISTROFF (41) C Dayer 9 0....... SPRLO (13) L Current 9 0......

O FOLLOWTHE ALLSTARS (10) T Noughton 80 \_\_D Hambon

| Coccool | Cocc 

—18 doctored —
18 doctored —
1

5.10 CHURCHILL SQUARE HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,200 added 1m 

3.00 TROWELL MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (CLASS F) £3,450 added 270 5f 13yds

— 10 doctored — SETTRIC: 7-2 Hover Oolf Ledy, 9-2 Greaton, 5-1 Covier And Coody, 6-1 Scar-rets, 7-1 C-Herry, Chopin, 10-1 Reder O'Rolliv. 12-1 officer

3.30 BASSINGFIELD MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,100 added 3YO 1m 54yds

.F Lynch (5) 6 .Pet Eddery 3

#### HYPERION 2,20 Contravene 3.50 Miss Riviera 4,20 Brave Patriarch 2.50 Hotspur Street 3.20 Total Aloof

STAILS: 51 & 2m Stork - wands side remainder - insie DRAW ADVANTAGE: High numbers best over 5f & 7f 100yds.

DRAW ADVANITATIONS righ numbers ness over 0 a 71 100yms.

If Right-band, galloping course with very stiff 5f.

If Racecourse is one rule west of town on A1035. Bus service from Beverley railway station (Hull – Scarborough line) two miles away. ADMISSION: Club £12; Junior Club (18 to 21-year-olds) £8; Tantensalis £8; Silver Bing £3; Course Enclosure £2; Picuic area £2 or £2 per car, plus £2 per occupant. CAR PARK: Free

■ LEADING TRAINERS WITH EUNNERS: Mark Johnston - 19 winners from 87 runners at a ratio of 21.9% giving a return to a 51 level stake of +510.00; Mrs M Reveley - 16 whiters, 104 runners, 14.4%, 459.88; J Berry - 15 winners, 118 runners, 12.9%, 455.87; winners, 104 numers, 14-4%, -a.ps.36; J Berry - 10 winners, 118 numers, 122%, -a.bs.36; J H Cecil - 12 winners, 24,4%, -a.bs.36; L H Cecil - 13 winners, 24,4%, -a.bs.26; D Loder - 12 winners, 25,3%, +514.31.

II LEADDING JOCKETS: K Darley - 40 winners, 21 rides, 18.1%, -668.16; W Carson - 20 winners, 65 rides, 30.5%, +580.5; W Swrer - 17 winners, 111 rides, 15.3%, -516.99; K Philon - 18 winners, 146 rides, 10.8%, -534.96; M Birch - 15 winners, 181 rides, 9.3%, -

271.23; J Carroll - 13 winners, 90 rides, 14.4%, -536.62.

BLINKERED FOR THE FIRST TIME: Shoufar (2.50).

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: Hazard A Guess (4.20) won in Kempson less Monday.

LONG-DISTANCE HONNERS: Brave Patriarch (4.30) sent 246 miles from J Dunlop's Armoles stable in West Sussex; Fing Fen (4.20) sent 206 miles from M Monde's Sherston stable in Wikshire.

2.20 SCARBOROUGH SELLING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,450 added 2YO 5f Penalty Value £2,616 3 ABSTONE QUEEN (10) (I E Albey) P Exars 8 8 ...
563 CHILLED WINE (4) (II Midgey) N Bycutt 8 8
42 CONTRAVENE (10) (BF) (William Burnel ) Bery 8 8
FLOOD'S FLYER (Ferbed Flood Bloodbook it.d) N Tanker 8 0 ...
4 MILL BND GIRL (5) (W 7 Algood) M W Essterby 8 6...
3 SHALL RISK (13) (BF) (M A Scale) C Dwys 8 8 ...

- B declared -\_\_ Carroll 8 - 6 decisred -BETTMB:7-4 Contravenc, 9-4 Small Risk, 11-2 Abstone Quoen, 6-1 Chilled Wige, 7-1 Mill End Girl,

12-1 Flood's Flyer 1995: The Firsty Farmer 2 8 11 T Sprake 6-1 (W G M Turner) 8 mm FORM GUIDE

Chris Dwyer has won with a couple of two-year-old filties already — Jenetie at Folkastone and Connermore at Worwick — and SMALL RISK might be good enough now she drops into a selier. Smeil Risk was beaten a total of eight lengths when favourise for a maiden auction here a fortright ago but the winner, Encherding Eve, is considered useful and is being aimed at Royal Ascort. Smeil Risk doesn't have anything as smert as Enchertice Eve to worry about today. Contravene has the beating of Abstone Queen and Chillied Wine on Wolvenhampton all-weather running in the selier won by Lawful Find but it will be interesting to see whether she can confirm the form on furf. Childed Wine has already turned round the Wolvenhampton form with Lawful Find on fast ground in the selier at Notzingham on Monday. There's also the chance that Contravene berself might emprove on the faster surface, however, and Jack Beny has had a pouple of juvenile winners after a relatively stugges start to the season. Mill End Galf with have benefited from her run behind the Beny-trained Northern Sal at Hamilton and is in a weeker race, while newcomer Flood's Flyer is cut of a mare that won as a two-year-old.

Selections SMALL RISK

2.50 BRIDLINGTON BAY HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2m 35yds Penalty Value £3,287

5 2-32(10) SHARKYR (RR) (21) (3) (. & R Roadines); R Yolinshead 5 9 0 ... K Relion 1.0

28402: TRUE BROD (182) (R Loub.) J Bothed 4 9 0 ... J Weener 2

7 53630-3 HOTSPUR STREET (17) (Stanley W Conle) M W Easterby 4 9 0 ... D R McCabe (3) 8

8 1025-40 HULLBANK (16) (Ms P Cabbor) W Hagh 8 8 12 ... J Tobs 4

8 06000-0 PRINCE EQUIMAME (53) (Coin Bandard-Flant, Steele) 0 Eicky 4 8 4 ... N Commonton 12

10 230,04-0 BOLD ELECT (53) (C) (G Loue) E Aston 8 8 4 ... S D Williams 3

11 3016-01, 34MM SPRINT (17) (50) (Neatrn West) J Eye 5 8 1 ... L Charrock 13

12 6513-55 SUDDEN SPR (17) (80) Parter) J Norton 0 8 0 ... J Flanding 15

13 11000-2 TOP PRIZE (17) (20) (Mel Broton) M Britain 8 7 12 ... ... 9 Bardwell 1 

- 18 declared 
Minimum weight: 7st 10th. The handing weights Bold Top 7st 8th, Desert Force 7st 7th.

BETTING: 5-1 Arian Spirit, 8-1 Hotspur Street, 7-1 Tree Bird, 8-1 Standar, 9-1 Hullbank, 10-1 Standay,
Top Prize, 12-1 Mountages, Sudden Spin, 14-1 Selmoston, Great Oration, 16-1 Don't Furget Curtin, Judicial Field, 20-1 others

1995: Moorlight Quest 7 9 10 T hes 8-1 (B Harbury) 23 ran FORM GUIDE

The two-miler on this card has been a handicap for the past three seasons and Mary Rev-eley has provided a winner (Taroudant), a second and a third. She tries this time with Mon-dragon, who will like this ground much more than that at Doncester three weeks ago, when he was talled off behind Shadinvan, in company with Shalidyr. Reg Hollinshead won this he was taked off behind stratinvan, in company with Shakkyr. Reg Holfurshead won this race two years ago with Wheeler's Wonder and Shakkyr stays the trip but his four wins have been on Fibresand. HULLBANK is a bit more versatile than Shakkyr in that he has won a AM Flat race on the all-weather at Southwell and a Redoar maiden on firm ground. Hullbank has run respectably in handicaps so far without being good enough to win one, but most of them have been over middle distances and this two miles could be his trip. Hullbank carried ten stone when besten a length and a head by Rolling The Bones and Vani Prince over course and distance last May and Jason Tate is on board for the first time since Prince over course and distance last May and Jason Tate is on board for the first time since the Redcar win. Les Eyre's horses are going as well as ever (he's won three handless all-ready this week) so it will be a surprise if Arism Spirit doesn't make her presence felt again after besting Top Prize (second), Hobspur Street (thinti), Sudden Spin (fifth) and Selmeston (seventh) at Newcastle last time out. Top Prize, for one, can make more of a race of it, and not just because he's 4lb better off for two lengths. The Newcastle race was his first in almost six months, he'll like the faster ground and best Arian Spirit eight lengths when winning a seller here last August. With Jason Weaver booked, True Bird can't be ignored. Weaver was on board when stablemate El Balador won first time out at Southwell in February as on the presence and the propostrance of t many, and again when the Besthell-trained filty Tabriz won a handicap on her responserance at the last meeting here. True Bird ran well first time out last year (besten a neck in a maldent and Bethell also won on Monday at Nottingham with Wisston. Since he finished seventh behind Harlestone Brook at Royal Ascot last summer, Simular has been disappointing on the Flat but he is a winning hundler who likes fast ground and might do better now he's

DE BAM BAM (John Peters Le Bam Bam Syndiacte) H Alberty 4 8 8 ...

OD BOMLERS BOY (LBC1) Blookers Reading J Quant 3 8 12 ...

OLD HUSH WING (Gerald Selby) P Hastorn 3 8 12 ...

DIVINEL MISS-P II. Flust A James 3 8 7 ...

DIVINEL MISS-P II. Flust A James 3 8 7 ...

DE LEANOR MAY (JO) (Mrs.) Hopeth 1 Bowton 3 8 7 ...

DE LAPULARDI (LBG) (Mrs. S Camacho) M Camacho 38 7 ...

OS LIOUSE TALK (LD) (BG) (Mrs. Steam) Dovel) W James 3 8 7 ...

O SUMMER PRONCESS (4) (Pen Daylor) G Fierro 3 8 7 ...

102 YOTAL ALOOF (251) (Total (Blookstock) Ltd) W Hogges 3 8 7 ...

— 10 decience ... \_3 Fortune \_J Wouver = 10 declared = LOOSE TALK and Total Aloof have ability and their experience is a plus in a race containing four newcomers. Loose Talk benefited from her such to Green Barnes at Doncaster of

3.20 HUTTON CRANSWICK MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,100

added 5f Penalty Value £3,691.

ing four newcomers. Loose Talk benefited from her sorth to Green Barnes at Doncaster on Lincoin day, failing by only half a length to get the better of Spicing over this trop at Not-tingham bed days ago. Spicing, however, is trained by William Haggas, responsible for To-tal Alorf and who has also won matten taces recently with Shu Gea and Yeest. All three of those Haggas witness were reading for the first time the season so the signs are that Total Alorf will be good and ready. Her short-head second to Crassem at Haydock last summer

3.50 LECONFIELD STAKES (CLASS C) £7,650 added 3YO filles 1m 2f Penalty Value £5,218 

FORM GUIDE

Stapply Katile best three others in a maiden auction at Lingfield in February, but she'll know she's been in a moe today because MISS RIVIERA looked useful when beating a big field at Doncaster right at the end of last season (although the only subsequent winner to come out of that roce is the runner-up, Green Barries). Out of a mare that has produced a number of winners, Miss Riviera can improve and the fact that the stable's three-year-old filles, Stately Figer and Berence, ran well in the ten-furing maidens at Kempton on Monday suggests she'll be forward enough. As a two-year-old, Siliver Wing Improved with experience, winding up with a second to Committal at York, although she never looked winning. She might have to do even better to trouble the other two.

Selection: MISS RIVIERA

4.20 HORNSEA MERE HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,100 added 1m 2f Penalty Value £3,665

000	NGEL'S LAD (20) (D) (N C Dunrington) P Hestern 4 10 0 Women	4
325	WAFIR (181) (Venneth MacPherson) P Calver 4 9 11 M Sirch	1
721	HAZARD A GUESS (4) (CD) (Consulto Lin) O Nicholis O 8 10 (Sex)	6
<b>100</b>	BRAVE PATRIARCH (340) (CD) (Peter 8 Winfield) J Duniop 5 8 8M Hills	7
203	FLAG FEN (USA) (3) (7) (Ledyswood Record Club) Marryn Meede 5 8 11	8
<b>12-0</b>	CAPILITO HEDGANTE (22) (D) (BF) (Bernard Hatheway) Mrs J Ramaden 488 K Fallon	9
254	NOMREYEV DANCER (20) (Dons Gallagher) A Bailey 488 Carroll	6
580-	BOBANEYN (164) (D) (Mrs Shella Walker) J Warmshift 4 7 11 L Chernock	ž
100	WESTCOURT PRINCESS (188) (CD) (K Hodgson) M W Easterby 4 7 10 Bandwell	6
	B declared	-

Minimum weight: 7st 10th. True handloop resign: Westcour Princess 7st 9th.
BETTINE: 7-4 Hazard A Guesa, 4-1 Carillo Briganta, 11-2 Bray Patriarch, 13-2 Kousreyev Dar
6-1 Higaris Land, Westcourt Princese, 12-1 Walt: 18-1 Hag Pen, 20-1 Bobaniya
1995: Wayne County 5 8 10 L Dettort 8-1 fG Fistroj 15 ran FORM CURDS

Hazand A Garess come with a strong late burst to win the competitive Rosebery Handicap at Kernyton on Monday and, if he produces anything like that sort of finish here, he must be difficult to hold off, despite the penalty. Devid Nicholia was also on the mark at Harmitton yesterday, with Rambo Waitzer. If anyone knowe what is wanted to beet Hazard A Guess it must be his former trainer lynda Ramsden, who takes him on with CARLIFO BRIGANTE. The selection was a long way admit of Hazard A Guess in the lady anatours race at Donester on the opening day of the season but the softening ground wouldn't have helped. Mick Easterby has been winning sprint handicaps with horses running for the first time this season so Westbourt Princess could be takey forward. She made all over course and distance last summer for today's ridar, Gary Bardwell, and, if she's strenghened up from three to four, she might not be easy to pag back in this higher-grade handicap. Brave Patriarch has often been highly thed since he won here two years ago – and that includes his latest outing, at the Cheftenham Festival, on the third of three races for Nick Henderson. Back with John Dunlop on the Flat, Brave Patriach could burn out to be well-handicapped and his yeard has been in good form this past week. Niget's Lad will have to be better than ever to win this under ten stone but this ground will suit him better than the softish surface at Donester and he's lideally suited by a mile and a quarter. Selection: CARLITO BRIGANTE

4.50 WITHERNSEA HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,100 added 7f 100yds Penalty Value £4,029

FORM GLEDE

Dances With Hooves is more than capable of warning this judged on his third of 21 to Cool Edge in the Spring Mile at Doncaster's opening feature. While Dences With Hooves has been difficult to train, SYVAMORE LODGE has been difficult to win writh, including when blinkered and fined over a variety of distances. Like Dances With Hooves, however, Sycamore Lodge finished full of numing in a big field at Doncaster on his reappearance, in the stollage finished full of numing in a big field at Doncaster on his reappearance, in the stollage finished full of numing in a big field at Doncaster on his reappearance, in the stollage finished full of numing in a big field at Doncaster on his reappearance, in the stollage first first worth another chance after his third to Schamhorst in testing ground at Lecester, Kira, Super Bertz and Pine Ridge Lad have all won for rurf handicaps for Las Eyre following a successful spell on the all-weather, so So Amazing commands respect. So Amazings first three Southwell wins were all for Sably Hall, however, and the filly will find this handicap for lougher than her latest success, in a claiming race. Queence Consider an at the same first three Southwell was were as for sally Hall, however, and the lary were that the same cap for fougher than her latest success, in a claiming race. Queens Consul ran at the same leicester meeting as Sycamore Lodge and the ground was against her. A fough front-run-ner on her day, she should do better on this surface but her one will last year was in a far less tincky race restricted to mares and fillies. Primo Lura could be that bit fitter following his third to Pine Ridge Lad here 13 days ago.

Selection: SYCAMORE LODGE

#### NOTTINGHAM \*\*

2.00 Crystal Fast 2.30 Goretski 3.00 Caviar And Candy 3.30 Chinesis 4.00 Eskimo Nel 4.30 Reaganesque (nb)

GOING: Good (good to firm to places). STALLS: 8f & 6f - stands side; remainder - inside. DEAW ADVANTAGE: High numbers best over 5f & 6f. Left-hand, oval course. Flat and galloping with easy turns. Run-

in of 240yds.

Rececourse is 2m east of city off B686 Colwick road. Notingham railway station (served by London St Pancras) is two miles away.

ADMISSION: Clab 512 (Junions, 16-21 years, 58); Taxersells 58; Silver Eing & Paddock \$4. CAR PARK: Silver Eing & Paddock \$4.

BLINKERED FOR THE FIRST TIME: None. WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

LONG-DESTANCE EUNNERS: Flame Of Hope (3:30) sent 175 miles
from J Dunlop's Aruncie stable in West Sousce; Chocolate Ico (3:30)
sent 165 miles from C Cyzer's Hapicharst stable in West Sussec; Bougamesque (4.30) sent 145 miles from P Marphy's Porthary stable in Aron.

2.00 WATNALL SELLING STAKES (CLASS 6) £3,000 added 3YO 1m 54yds 506-00 ALPHETON PRINCE (56) J L Hams 8 12....

2.30 NEW BASFORD HANDICAP (CLASS E)

ı	2.00	£4,200 added 510 of 15yds
•	21.	FARHANA (168) (D) W Javis 9 77 Quine 10
2	30205-0	U-NO-HARRY (22) (D) R Holinshead 8.5Flynch (5) 2
ì	011.	MYBOTYE (225) (D) G Oldroyd 9 5
í	03412-0	MULLACH SELL LAD (10) & Michighon 83 & Carter 3
•	51453-6	QWESPYR (10) J Beny 9 3
i	2641-	KENGS HARMONY (144) (D) P Makin 9 1
í	05215-1	MATERIAN REPORTS (17) (D) M Chamcon 9 C R Hoghes 4
	050-	FARRY PRINCE (237) Mrs A King & 13 A MicRose ()
,	005	CRED(TE RISQUE (300) J Fanshane 8 12 N Vecley (3) 11
,	55040	RAPID LINER (193) H Cliner 88
	14500-2	GORETSKI (9) (D) N Turkier 8 6
	650-	RAYTHMIC BALL (200) T Weston 8 4 Dean McKening 13
	30200-0	RUSTIC SONG (10) J Whaten 84P Robbson 14
	356000-	PERCY PARK (USA) (160) M W Esstedy 82 Quien 1
٠.		POLISH SABA (171) M Dods 82: J F Spin 17
П		AFISHAK (5) A Multicliand 82C Retter 18
•		HOSSIS CHOICE (I) (I) & Mone 82 (7ed Dale Shees 5
		WINERUT (62) M Heyres 80F Nortoe 16
z	4-06656	



## sport



#### Photograph: Presse Sports

#### JUST THE TICKET: What's on for the sporting spectator

points, which are double at the

is particularly strong, with medal prospects a reality. Kate Howey con-tests the under-72kg category.

while Cheryle Peel fights in the un-der-61kg, a class in which she won the junior world championship.

Georgina Singleton is another ju-

nior world champion and her ex-

perience has also brought her the European title in the under-56 cat-

egory. Competition statts at 9am, with finals from 3.30pm.

How to get there: National Index Arena, King Edward's Road, Berningham, Inscion 6 of M6 and the Arena is signosted from the A380M. 15 nimute walk from the man walk from the A380M. 15 nimute walk from 16 mm and 16 mm

KORFBALL: National League Championship Finals (Cystal Palace), Premier Division final; Mitcham v Croydon 18.45), The main event is preceded by the promotion play off for the Premier Division: Borbugh Green v Trogans (Chislehurst) (6.0) and the reserve division final; Voltox (Britson) v Croydon (7.20). Spectiffing is free, Cystal Palace National Sports Centre, Ledington Road, London SELS, (16:1018), 1778 0.131.

O18.1 778 01.31).

LACROSSE: Women's international: Scotland v England (Edinburgh). The annual meeting in the triangular Home Nation's fournament starts at 2.30m, preceded by the B International at noon. Admission; £2.50 adults, concessions for children. Ricardand Compute, Henot Walt University, Edinburgh, is south-west of the city centre. Mirramock unit-off on the bypass.

tre, Nirmemock turn-off on the bypass. SAND YACHEINE: Briesh Championahip round (Brean), Racing in the fifth round of eight starts at 10.30em formorrow and Sunday, Compe-tion in Case Vis very dose, with Chris Whight, the joint champion from Leeds, leading this group from fellow champion. Mile Haropton, from Loughborough, who is trying out a new yeart. Ian Coolson, the Blackpool safor who designs his own yearts, is leading the larger Class III. Brean Sands is hear Burnham-on-sea. Somerest.

This weekend

O1865 T18970.
TOMORROW
POOTBALL: FA Carling Premierchip. Endsleigh League and Belt's Scontish League.
RIGBY LEAGUE: Stones Super League. Oldham v Leeds (6.0); Pans, v Workington 17 OI.
RIGBY LEAGUE: Stones Super League. Oldham v Leeds (6.0); Pans, v Workington 17 OI.
RIGBRY LANDIN: Courage Closs Champorchip and Insurance Corporation trish League.
RIGBRY: Hore-day, match: Oxford University v Leoesserance (1.1. 30) (at The Partis).
HOCKRY: Vitomen's International: Creat Britain v Jetmerlands (3.15) (Allion reynes). The men's National Insert-League competition will also be field.
Programme: Hurrisostea and Westminster v Ib-sucht (9.0); Oxford Hawks, v Harborne (10.50); Vestion Super-Halle Vitomer (10.50); Allional Hawes (5.30), Admission; covered ER, familiant Reynes; N Authannistonshire. (1et: 0.1903 23.1266. Normen's National League programme RACING (Flat meetings in emplasky) WARMICKIC (10.512); Toxicosta ES; Course ES, (15.0). Wolfurertainstern (10.51); Toxicosta ES; Course ES, (15.0). Newton Alboid Taternals SB, (5.0). Oxford ER Accompanied under 16; these (2.0). Selegifiedt Padrock.
BIGH's ER; Course E2: 11.459.
ASROBATICS: National Competition (Sandyt, Pilots competing in the first national event of the season will be given on unseen Sequence of serobatic figures on armail and will fly the petitern warbour practice. Competition is from 10 and to 4 dom. Specitioning is free. Oid Warden Artifield is near Sandy, Bedfordshire.

ATHLETICS: Bupa International Road Races ISouthseal. The start and finish on Clarence on Southseas seafront is between the D-Day Museum and the Pyramid Centre. First roce of 13 is at 11.05am; the three international races are: Initiation men's mile at 12.40pm, the women's 5tim at 1.05pm and the men's 5tim at 1.35pm.

BOWLS: Engish Men's Indoor Chambionships (Melton Mowbray), The Championships BOWLS: Engish Men's invoice Champonships Den-imetion Movbray). The Championships Den-with the fours first round at 9.30am, 1.30pm and 6.15pm. On Sunday, the quarter-lines are at 9.30am, the semi-finals at 2pm. The first round of the trafes at 6,15pm. Admission: to-morrow £1.50pm, Sunday, £1. Melton and De-trict Indoor Bowling Cub, Leocster Road, Melton Mowbray, Leocstershire, (Tet. 01664-67428). BOXING: World Boxing Organisation welter-weight championship. Earnorn Loughran (Bailymena, holder) v Jorge Luis Lopez (Meri

SATURDAY/Judo British Open Championships Birmingham

The British Open Championships is one only two remaining open events in Europe and Olympic year has brought about increased nterest with an entry reaching the 600 mark. Korea, one of the world's strongest nations in this sport, will be participating, joining players from Australia, Brazil and Europe at Britain's premier event. There is also a large British entry, both squad members and players aspiring to reach international level next season by gaining ranking

(Lizerpool), Other titles on card; WBO Byweight championship; Paul Wer (Soo) v Baby Jake Matala (SA, holded); weart WBO Inter-control super-medieverght championship; Paul Wight v Stephen Wilson (Soo), Admission; \$20, £30, £50, rogside, Promotion starts at 7,30pm; Everton Park Sports Contre, Great Horner Street, is off Scotland Road, north of Interpool city centre. (Tet 0151, 207, 1921). British light-middleweight championship; Ensley Bringham (Manchester, Admission; £15, £25, £40, nigside, Programme starts at 7,30pm, The Forum, Poundswick Lane, Withershawe, is rune miles from Manchester city enshave, is rune miles from Manchester city centre, close to junction four, M56. Ifel: 0161 437 6367).

FENCING: Cole Cup (Isleworth). The Interna-torial satine event, the British round of the Baltic Cup, opens with the men's Individual com-petition tomorrow from 9am. On Sunday, the team event will be corrected, which includes a women's competition for the first time at these championships. 9.30am start on each day. Spectaring is these. West London Institutes, Isleworth, Middlesex, is on A4.

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ulton Direct Bank, a direction of HFC Bank pk., an authorised immension under

lowest ever\*\*

SNOOthers campean began a train grounding Seven players pompete, but only four proceed to the play-offs in May. All will be decoded this weekend. Programmer moon: Rome O'Sult-van v Ken Docherty teatmissions £10 advits, £5 children/Dayst; April: Steve Dovis v John Parrott (£10, £6); Sprit: Stephen Henry v Pe-ter Ebdon (£15, £6), Diamond Centre, Nene Park, krithingborough, Northamptonshire. (Tel: 01933 650345). 01933 650345). TENPIN BOWLING: PTBC (Bracknell). This renting event, the Premier Tempon Bowling Club, courts towards the Team England squad for 1997. Qualifying takes place bomorrow at 2pm and 4.30pm, contrauting on Sunday at 9am and 11.45am, Semi-linals follow at 3pm, with the finals from 4.30pm. Speciating is free. Hoflywood Bowl, The Point, Skempedhil Lane, Brackneti, Berkshire. (Tel: 013444 867700). UNSECURED PERSONAL LOANS 

SUNDAY

seed and Westminster (3.0): Bromay's bodon Hawles (6.0).

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: World Lacque: London Monarchs v Scotosh Claymones (White Hart Lane). The prospect of William "The Pridge" Perry taking the field for London and Gawn Hasslings appearing for the Claymones has added interest to this opening match of the sesson. £16.50 lickes have sold out, but seets are available at £12.50 and £7.50. The match at Totlenhern Hospur FC locks off at 3pm. CYCLINGS Archer Grand Prix (BeaconsSeld, Buckinghamshire). The Premier Calendar event, at 106-mile sec, starts from Sir Wilkam Ramsay School, Rose Avenue, Hacteners, at 11.am and covers a nine-lap circuit of American to Beaconsfeld, firstisting on A355 (Beaconsfeld to American). \*\*Julie Hoises et 3 pm. The nouse passes the villages of Winchmore Hill (close by). Penn Street (of AAO4), knotty Geren (B474). EQUESTRIANISM: Spong Working With Heavy EQUESTRANSAIRS Spring Working With Heavy Horses (Ringwood). The working displays in-volve horses such as Stries, Percherons, Cydesdelses, Ardennes and Suffolks. First de-plays from 10.30em. Admission: £3 adults, £2 OAPs, £1. children. Lower Bistarne Form. Bisterne, Ringwood, Hampshire. Purther de-tails: 01.444 242414.

tasti: U1444 24/214.
BECTOR RACINO: Brash Formula Tree Cham-planship (Thrustan). Qualitying starts at 9.10am, with racing at 2pm. Admission: £10 adults, children free. Thruston Orcust is five miles west of Andows, Hampehire, on A303. (Tel: 01264 772696).

SNOONER European League (Inthingborough). Programme: noon: John Parrott v Pater Ed-borr, 4pm: Jimmy White v Ken Docherty, 8pm: Stephen Hendry v Stave Davis. Admission de-

Next week

FOOTBALL (7.30 usless stated): Monday: FA
Carling Presterable: Assend v Totterham
(8.0, Inder-16 forternational: Wates v Northen Ireland of Raccounts Ground, Western),
Friendly Math;; Motherwell v Wolves (7.45),
Tuesday: Uslag Drysemi-Graits second legBarcelone (2) v Sayer munch (2) (8.0); Bordeaut (1) v Sayer Prester (0). FA Carling Premierable: Everton v Liverpool. Endeleigh
Internation Legens First Division: Port Velo v
Grimsby 17.45); Survisiand v Birmingham
(7.45); Wathor v Reading (7.45), Saccord Division: Chesterheid v Westell (7.45); Octor Und
v Notes County (7.45); Westine v Rotherham Next week

(7.45), Third Division: Combridge Utol v Preston (7.45); Colchester v Gifinghem (7.45); Herelond v Plymouth; Mandfeld v Rochvalle (7.45); Seuntemore v Bury, 686 Vaschball Conferences Both v Widdermanster (7.45); Netturing v Stevenage (7.46); Northwich v Mandfeldeld (7.45); Runcom v Statyleridge (7.45); Southeon v Monecambe (7.45); Widney v Tamborusy (7.45); Bell's Southeon v Monecambe (7.45); Widney v Tamborusy (7.45); Bell's Southeon Cup send-finale second leg: Nartee (90) v Avertus (2); Panathralikos (1) v April (9) v Avertus (2); Panathralikos (1) v April (9); Panathralikos (1) v April (9); Panathralikos (1); Natingham v Werabledon (7.45); Manchester Uto v Leede (8.01); Necencie v Southampton (7.45); Notlingham Forest v Covenny (7.45); Sheffield Blackburn v Wirtbledon (7.4S); Manchester Utd v Leets (2.0); Seconstie v Southampton (7.4S); Nothingram Forest v Coverny (7.4S); Sheffield Wed v Chelsas (7.4S). Entialoigh Insurance League Flant Division (1.6ccster v Chelm (7.4S); Siolev Cheston (7.4S). Enterleigh (1.6ccster) Chelm (7.4S); Siolev Cheston (7.4S). Transcev bewich. Second Division: Shmeshury v Wredham; Swindon v Burnley (7.4S). Transcept European Cup-Wilsmers Cup anni-finalit second legt Parts Sc Cerman (11) v Repended Lounda (0) (8.0); Royd Vietna (1) v Feyendord (1). Building EaGute: Fidelicy; Stones: Super Leegue: Wighn v Birdford (7.3O).
RUGGY UNION: Tuenday: Hoinekam Welen Leegue: First Division: Liencli v Aberavot (7.0). Second Division: Tendy Uni v Dunant (7.0). Cade Ristrich: Crumby v Cross Reys (7.0). Wednesoeley: Causage Clots: Chempler: Ship Na-

ty metals (first day of four); Lancashing v You, shire (Old Trafford).

con-16s free, (First race 2.0), Redeater, Cub 15; Poddock £6 (NAP) £41, (2.10). Southwell: Chu £12; Tottesalls £6 (MP) members of course's Diemond Dub £4, accompaned under-16s free!, (2.20). Tuesday: POLRESTONE: Cub £12 (under-16s free); Tatiensals £8.50; Course £6, rele; Tatiensals £8.50; Course £6, rele; Tatiensals £8.50; Course £6, rele; Ed for eye hocupant. (1.50). NoWhatavett: Cub £14 (16 to 25-year-olds £8); Gondistand and Poddock £0 (10 (16 to 25-year-olds £8); Sher Ring £3. (2.0). Hechance as Monday. (2.10). Woodnesday: NeWhataveta: as Tuesday. (2.0). PONIEFRACT: Cub £12; Padock £8; Silver Ring £3.50. (2.45). Chestenham: Cub and Tatiersalls combined £12; purlors, 18-24 years, £8); Firster's Enclosure £5. (2.20). Thursday: NeWhatavetta's Enclosure £3. (2.0). Ripode £0.0). Ayr: Cub £16; Garantand £8 (OAPs half-once). (2.20). Priday: NEW-BARY: Members £13; Tatiersalls £8; Silver Ring £4; Course £2 (accompanied under-16s fired sand £8 (OAPs half-once). (2.20). Priday: NEW-BARY: Members £13; Tatiersalls £8; Silver Ring £4; Course £8 (OAPs £4); Family Enclosure £3 (OAPs £4); Family Enclosure £3 (OAPs £1.50). Accompanied under-16s fired. (2.15). Ayer as Thursday. (2.0). NEXT WEEK-KEND POURALL: Solunday: Entistagh insurance League.

and Bell's Scottish League, Sunday, Encicient League First Distriont Sunderland v Stoke. RUBBY LEAGUE: Sacturdays Stomes Super League: Castierond v Othern (6.0). Sunday: Stomes Super League: Castierond v Othern (6.0). Sunday: Stomes Super League: Haidas v St Helens; Leous v Sheffield Eagles: London Broncos v Workington Toen (at Charlton Athletiq: Warmington v Pais. RUGBY Unifoth's Saturday; Ineurance County Championship Final: Sloucestershire v Warnickiner (3.0). Let Teclamhami. Courage Cutes: Crampionship transcus, Herneken Weish League and Insurance Coopporation Inst League. CRICKET: Saturday: 7ettey's Shield (first day of four): England A v The Rest (Chelmstoth, includes Sunday play). University w Desbyahre (Fenner's, includes Sunday play). Oxford University v Middleses (The Parisa). Sanday: One-day Matthe. Lenaesshie v Vortethre (Old Trefford). RACENIE: Saturday: NEWEURY: Members £15; Tattersalls £10; Silver Ring £3 (DAPs half pince). (2.0). THERSIK as Finday (2.15). Aspect Memors £12: (Linior Members £6-25 years, half onus); Garndstand and Padotok £5; Soure Ring £6, £6-15. Ayr. Clue £20; Grandstand £5(DAPs half-pince). (1.50). Banger Padotok £5; Course £4 (Linior). 15; free all enclosures). (2.10). Stratford: Cub £12: Tattersalls £8; Oxore £4, E.30).

Plan ahead

For the first time since 1982, the w track cycling championships are being staged in Britain, at the purpose-built Manchester Velodrome this summer. The tember, involves specialist riders from more than 30 countries. The indoor 250-metre track, opened

in 1994 and also the venue for the 2002 Commonwealth Games, will play host to 12 track disciplines for men and women. The programme includes high y charged sprints, sapping pursuits and thilling chases in the points races.

Chris Boardman, Graeme Obree and Yvonne McGregor compete for Britain and as the championships follow on from the Olympic Games, there will be an array of champions. Obree defends his 4,000m pursuit title and almady there is interest for the first two days when he and Boardman, the 1994

champion, are likely meet.

For visitors wishing to stay over, the
Netional Cycling Centre can provide a
Manchester Accommodation Guide.

Car parking is free and there is a su-

Car parking is free and there is a supervised blike park. World Teck Quiling Oremptonships, Menchester Velodrome, 28 August to 1 September. National Quiling Conte. Menchester Velodrome, Stuart Street, is located off Ashton New Fload (MéG.2), between Manchester and Ashton-under-tyne, near Droylesden and reached from A6G2 via Cothett Street.
Programme: Wednesday, Sem-noon: 3-9pm, Thursday, 4-8pm, Friday, Sem-noon: 4-8pm, Saturday, 103-11-30am; 3-9pm, Sunday, 3-7pm, Tickets: Premium day, ±10 adults, 15 children under-160APs, Standard day, 18, 14, File-day, 135, 118, Access for disabled, Booking forms available from Notonal Quality Carrier, Manchester Velodrome, Stuart Street, Manchester M11, 40Q, Oredit card bookings: 0181 230 2307 or 2308. Personal collers of the Netional Cuting Gentre: weekdays Sam-Born; weekends Sam-Born; weekends Sam-Born;

Details of forthcoming events with information on tickets and venues should be sent to: The Sports Desk, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, Fax: 017t 293 2894.

Compiled by Paul Maher

Hundred years war in 'Hell of the North' but Sean Kelly has twice given

The gnarled route of the Paris to Roubaix race has left a deep and lasting impression over the last 100 years, mainly on its contestants.

Queen of the Classics or Hell of the North, whichever nickname you choose depends on your fate in the oldest, toughest and dirtiest race whose reputation stems from 56 kilometres of cobbled farm tracks.

On Sunday, nearly 200 racers assemble in Compiègne, north of Paris, to race to in-dustrial Roubaix, near Lille. In 1896 the first winner. Josef Fischer, spent nine hours in the saddle. This weekend's 270 kilometres should take the successful seven and a half hours.

The route remains as traditional as croissants, but riders are no longer paced by tandems, cars or motor cycles, and they don't have to sign in at checkpoints. Telegrams giving updates on the race were sent to the finish from villages on the route in 1896. Now millions watch it on worldwide television.

The flatlands of northern France have felt the heat of many conflicts, and l'Enfer du Nord got its name when the race organisers saw what First World War shelling had done to their

Robin Nicholl celebrates the centenary of the Paris-Roubaix classic cycling race

It was hell long before that, grinding men and machines in its jaws, those uneven cobbles in the same that his victory, and Belgium's first of many, was safe. known as paves to the French. The dung-coated soil filters on to the course, and a farmyard odour wafts from the showers as weary finishers swill off their muddy masks and caked legs.

Bernard Hinault won in 1981, but the five-times winner of the Tour de France said: "1 detest this stupid race," an opinion strengthened when a dog sent him crashing.

The course bas survived plans to tarmac its distorted path, even to the point of raising a petition. There have been great performances, unexpected heroes, many broken bikes and broken dreams, and enough injustice to keep an appeal judge busy for years.
The victory fanfare rang out

over the Roubaix Velodrome in 1908 but Cyrille van Hauwaert, the leader the crowds expected to see, had been detained by the police. A gendarme at the velo-drome gates insisted on checking the tax plate on the Belgian's bike and refused to let him pass until he had seen that it was a current

In 1927 Joseph Curtel was carried shoulder-high by fellow Frenchmen as "La Marsellaise" rang out. Then, resisting abuse and threats an official announced the verdict had gone to a Belgian, Georges Ronsse.

Two years later Ronsse crashed on the final corner of a cinder-track finish and ran into second place, his damaged bike on his shoulder. When the judges stopped the main field from contesting the finish, the disgusted crowd invaded the track. angry that a prestigious race should be decided on cinders. Jean Marechal was stripped

of victory in 1930 because be had forced his Belgian rival, Julien Vervaecke, into a ditch. Fate was against Vervaecke: in 1940 he faced a firing squad.

Roger Lapebie was first home in 1934 but was disqualified for using an unofficial machine. He borrowed a woman's bike from a spectator Barry Hohan was third in 1972,

Ireland success. Fischer's inaugural victory is also remembered for a gutsy Welshman, Arthur Linton, who was giving Fischer a hard time until a wandering dog felled him. It was no easier for Fischer. A

bolting horse, then cows blocking the course, had the German twitching before, covered in bouquets and chutching a glass of champagne, be signed the fin-ishers register 30 minutes before the second rider, Charles Meyer, arrived. Linton was fourth, 43 minutes and many punctures after Fischer. Four months later Linton died of typhoid fever.

Nine months after the 1949 race the official result was altered and victory was shared by Andre Mahé, who had entered the track through the door of the press tribune after being sent off course, and Serse Coppi. to whom victory had been awarded for being first to complete the correct course.

Canada's Steve Bauer did not have to wait so long, but in 1990 it was just as agonising. His photo-finish with Eddy Planckaert went to the Belgian by a centimetre. "To come so close and when his own had a puncture. not win. That hurt more than Britain still awaits a winner. anything," Bauer said. It sound-

### 'Fans are at long last realising that they do have some power in football today'

From Mr R Officer Sir: Isn't it ironic that it took

low attendances at the FA Cup semi-finals to highlight a problem that has been around for years? This being loyal supporters having to pay inflated ticket prices because the powers that be know they have a captive market and take advantage time and time again.

Fortimately, at the semis, the script did not run quite true to form as in the past. Fans are at long last realising that they do have some power in football today. Supporters organisations such as the Football Suppporters' Association and the growing number of Independent Supporters' Associations are leading the fightback against what can only be termed as an a oppressive egime by football authorities their most precious posses-

sion, the paying public.
Supporters have always been the fall guys in any financial criteria concerning football. Take for instance the treatment fans. receive at away fixtures where they are often charged more than home fans for frequently inferior accommodation, where no concessions are made available for away juniors or OAPs When taking this up with the Football League they say it is the responsibility of the individual

clubs to decide pricing policy. I hope this is a turning point, that more fans will begin to question the right of "the men in suits" to manipulate this great game of ours, often to their own ends. It is about time we were given a much higger say in the process and

**BOB OFFICER** High Wycombe

From H Margolis

Sir: David Aaronovitch ('Empty seats are price of greed', 3 April) is dead right. I, too, am a Spurs season ticket holder and am seriously considering whether to renew next year. For an expensive £512 I have to stand in a crowded, litterstrewn corridor to drink a disgustingly weak, over-priced cup of tea out of a paper cup.

We are asked to get to the ground early but, when we do. here is nowhere to sit down comfortably for an hour for a quiet drink unless we pay more o join an 'Executive' or 'Centenary' Club. I can no longer get tickets for away matches by post I bave to queue for them.

I would take Alan Sugar's concern' with a pinch of salt. 1 recently wrote to him suggestng be left the comfort of The Director's Box and spent some time experiencing match day with the ordinary season-ticket holders. I also suggested he considered reducing seat prices. l got no reply. Yours,

**H MARGOLIS** 

From Mr P Avery Sir: I am concerned over the 'survival of the richest" battle in football, which seems to nave intensified in recent years. In terms of the FA's policies on ticket prices, I want to know where the revenue from, say a £38 semi-final. ticket, goes to? How much pays for security, policing etc, but more impor-

#### SPORTS LETTERS: THE GREAT TICKET DEBATE

The cost of tickets to the FA Cup semi-finals, the Football Association's response to the controversy and the overall price of going to football continue to attract a strong reaction from Independent readers: Here we print a further selection of your views

tantly, what proportion is just clear profit?

The FA must realise that with the strength of television sports coverage, both terrestrial and satellite, fans have a much cheaper chance to see games. However, the television powers that be are in the same race as the FA, with "pay as you watch" matches exclusive to satellite on the horizon. Whether in the ground or in the comfort of their own home, fans are in-

evitably held to ransom. This year Manchester United seem to have done nicely in general as they seek ways to from the FA's pricing policy. make more revenue out of playing in one Cup semi-final and staging the other. But it's catch 22 for clubs like Bolton, Southampton and Coventry who don't have the grounds or facilities to attract this potential revenue. If you haven't got it, there's less and less chance of getting it these days.

PHILIP AVERY

From Mr D C Pemberson Sir: 1 thought Sky baving this contact with the Premier League for the televising of matches would lead to lower admission prices for those attending matches in person. All it has done has made football clubs and the people who run them even greedier. The prices people are expected to pay are extortionate.

In a way, f hope this leads to stadiums with hardly anybody in them and lacking atmosphere. Sky might think it was not worth renewing their Premier League contract and in so doing teach football's administrators a lesson.

DAVID C PEMBERSON

From Mr A Marks

Sir: I am an Arsenal supporter whose loyalty stretches to holding a season ticket and taking out a Bond in 1991, not to mention 450-mile round trips to see them play at home. In return my experiences have been as follows:

My season ticket (currently £205) entitles me to admission to all Premier League matches plus the first seven Cup ties at Highbury. If I watch 14 games, I end up paying the same per game as I would have done on a match-by-match basis - beyond that I am paying less. In 1994, when Arsenal played Sampdo-ria in the Cup-Winners' Cup semi-final, I was charged £7 as the cup-ue allocation had been used, but this price was the sea-son's cost of the ticket divided hy 28. I was impressed by the way Arsenal did not use the match Status as an excuse to rip fans off. As a bond-holder, I am al-

owed to claim an extra ticket for Cup finals, which enabled my daughter to join me at Wembtey for both domestic finals in 1993. I am sent the club magazine for free. The first 1,000 bond-holders were photographed with players, etc. and given a framed certificate. small gestures that show Arsenai try to return our toyalty. The price of the season ticket is pledged to rise by no more than inflation for the rest of the from the huge amounts of mon-

Once I would travel the shorter distances to see Arsenal's away games in the north and Midlands but the pricing policy of most clubs in these regions now renders that prohibitive. As National Express has a scheme that allows children to go free, it is often cheaper to take my daughter to Highbury than to local grounds. Ridiculous! When I attended the FA

Cup semi-final in 1993 at Wempaid £16 and in the cheapest seats. Why have prices doubled in three years? Buying the bond hurt financially but it was worth it. I have never been made to feel I was being taken for granted. I feel for fans excluded by the rise in prices for individual matches, although Arsenal's are relatively low and are the same for Milan or Manchester United as they are for Wimbledon or Hartlepool. As for visiting oth-

being exploited in most cases and the prices charged remain a deterrent to taking my daugh-I thought I ought to explain why I am satisfied with my club's performance in this area. Fans of other clubs I have spoken to do not feel the same way, with good reason. It's not just

er team's grounds as I once did

10 times a season, I feel I am

money, it's about feeling valued and appreciated. Obviously my reward has included watching my team be highly successful in recent sea-and clubs appear intent on grabsons but, for most fans, going to football is about much more. It's about feeling part of their club. Having to travel 230 miles to see my boyhood club play means lit-tle to me and to the many others who do likewise, because it feels like going home. Will future generations feel the same

way? At this rate, I doubt it. ANDREW MARKS West Yorkshire

From Mr C Burrows Sir: Those of us at the British Embassy in Athens who take a keen interest in football have been following closely your debate about ticket prices.

In just under two weeks' time, a group of us will be taking our seats in one of the best equipped stadia in Europe, the Olympic stadium in Athens, to watch the second teg of the European Cup semi final between Panathinaikos and Ajax. The cost? About £6.

**CHRIS BURROWS** 

From D Siddell Sir: May I say, as a Liverpool season ticket holder who refused to pay £30 to watch the match, how pleased I was to see how much of your back page you gave over to the scandal of the FA Cup semi-final ticket prices. I noted the totally inadequate comments of the FA with their typical response after the event. Perhaps one day they will think of the fans before a big match.

The fans have not gained ey Littlewoods, the BBC and Sky have given to the FA to sponsor and screen these events. Perhaps they might spend some of the money on the supporters

by reducing the price of tickets? They could also involve the supporters' associations in the review of their pricing policy or. more radically, appoint supporters' representatives to their Match and Ground Committee.

DAVID SIDDELL

From Mr I Wolfe Sir: I returned from holiday two days before the semi-final to find that I would have to fork out £30 for a ticket. I was able to afford the price, but it is extremely unlikely that I would

have attended any replay. Prices have escalated and little consideration is given to supporters. Last year I paid £40-plus for the Coca-Cola Cup final. It was played at 5pm on a Sunday, which does not strike me as being convenient for the fans who had to travel An FA Cup final ticket in

1989 cost me £32 for a seat directly behind a wide stanchion. I was able to see only one half of the pitch at any time and ended up sitting in an aisle so that

I could have a decent view, Scant attention is paid to the wishes of supporters and, although facilities have improved, they still leave much to be debing as much financial reward as they can muster at the expense of the fans. Action must be taken immediately to ensure the game remains affordable for the average spectator. Yours faithfully IAN WOLFE

Liverpool From Mr P Stephenson

Sir: I'm not one to stand up for the FA but I'd happily give up five dire 0-0 draws at Swansea for one Cup tie like Chelsea v Manchester United. The real outrage is £7\_50 to suffer through 90 minutes of relentless mediocrity at the bottom of the Second Division. It makes £38 look like a snip.

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PAUL STEPHENSON Swansea

From Mr S Pilkington Sir: Graham Kelly's defence of FA ticket pricing policy was a masterpiece of illogical reasoning, blatant hypocrisy and smug complacency which every soccer fan will dismiss with

contempt. However, the most nauseating part was his pious little homily at the end: "We care about the fans because over whelmingly we and our families are fans." If this is the case, how much do you and your cohorts from the FA have to pay for lickets when you attend a big match with your families, Mr Kelly?

Yours sincerely STEVE PILKINGTON Stockport .

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Chief .

Brittle: controversial figure

The man in the middle of rugby union's civil war It would he impossible to exag-

gerate the depth of ill-feeling the alliance of major clubs gathered under the hanner of EPRUC have for Cliff Brittle. Alas for them it is not Brittle they are fighting but another alliance, an unholy one of the English Counties and the broad swathe of Rughy Football Union membership for whom professionalism means nothing.

These are the people who will not acquiesce in a few hig clubs trying to push the union - and by extension them - around, though this is scarcely fair on the big clubs when all they are try-

ing to do is put in practice some-thing which has in effect been imposed on them.

Now professionalism has come, they have quite properly embraced it and wish to make it work. The rest of the RFU is at best indifferent to their problems and at worst downright hostile to the very idea of professionalism and this 54-year-old retired busi-nessman is the standard-bearer of every single one of the many and varied interests ranged against the big clubs. They don't like it, and they don't like him.

played mainly at centre. Brittle, in his role of RFU executive chairman, speaks from a represented on the RFU com-

Steve Bale assesses the RFU chief executive, who beat the establishment candidate for the job but is now facing a rebellion

missed any of the union's media

events this season. The story

goes that he was at Twickenham

position of strength, no matter that until his election when he dehe lives in tax exile on the Isle of Man. EPRUC would just as feated John Jeavons-Fellows, the executive's own unanimous soon he went back there never to nomince - his was not among the return. Hence their appeal vesunion's highest profiles. The zenith of his playing career had been a period with Sale hut for terday to Bill Bishop, the RFU president, to involve himself. On fuesday, when Brittle delivered the RFU's pronouncements, the most part he was confined to his native Stoke, for whom he Bishop was notable by his absence virtually the first time he has

He also played and coached Staffordshire, the county he has mittee since 1989, though in fact hut had been prevented from attending by Brittle. Before and since, the clubs

have conducted a campaign of personal vilification which has upset Brittle, though it has not persuaded him to withdraw nor anyone at the RFU to make that decision for him. Last week Brittle almost came to blows with Sir John Hall of Newcastle when they sat down in a doorned attempt to find common ground.
This week the war of words has

been marginally more subtle but no less poisonous. First Brittle accused the clubs of breaking a gennegotiate through the media. Yesterday EPRUC came back with the self-same accusation against Brittle, also accusing him of surreptitious dealing in allowing Fran Cotton, the former England prop (and one of the RFU negotiating team), to attack the clubs at last month's second

special general meeting.

Donald Kerr of EPRUC says that there are no pre-conditions to re-opening dialogue with the RFU, going so far as to de-

tary, as a man he could do business with. But it is evident Brittle would first have to be retleman's agreement not to moved. "He has selectively gone public on certain discussions at private meetings," Kerr

complained yesterday.

Having done this and also sanctioned Fran Cotton's speech against the top clubs at the last special meeting, in clear violation of the gentleman's agreement which we had then strictly adhered to, it is no wonder that he has now lost the confidence and trust of the clubs." Unfortunately they are 20, the

## Ballesteros ! up to his old tricks

Andy Farrell watches a golfing legend trying to recapture his former glory

This is the 60th US Masters and the 10th anniversary of Jack Nicklaus' record sixth victory. It is, therefore, just under 10 years and a week since a friend of the Golden Bear cut out an article in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and taped it to the fridge door in the house the Nicklaus clan rented for the week.

Tom McCollister, the paper's golf correspondent, had written: "Nicklaus is gone, done. He just doesn't have the game anymore. It's rusted from lack of use. He's 46, and nobody that old wins the Mas-

Nicklaus shot seven under for the last 10 holes, hrilliant even hy his standards, and has never let McCollister forget it. "Thanks, Tom," the Bear said as McCollister walked into the victory press conference. "Glad I could help," came the reply. In 1996, Seve Ballesteros.

seven years younger than Nicklaus was then, would need an industrial-sized freezer to stick up all the articles writing off the 1980 and '83 Masters champion. "Clueless." screamed a headline in Sports Illustrated.

An American golf magazine coupled Ballesteros with Nicklaus in a category of those needing miracles to win this week, saying: "Can't find the fairway with three marshals and a seeing-eye dog."

Then on Tuesday, the Spaniard's 39th hirthday, USA Today told its readers not to watch Ballesteros play. If you have fond memories of this swashbuckling Spaniard manufacturing shots from car parks, trees, hushes and brambles all over the world, don't watch him this week. If you had the feeling he would make no worse than par no matter what the circumstances, the cur-

tain is drawn on that show."

Two missed cuts, a last place finish, and a back injury induced withdrawal was not the way Ballesteros would have wished to have entered his 20th Masters. But there were plenty who ignored the "don't watch" advice yesterday morning. As he was among the dew-sweep-ers in the eighth two-ball of the morning, there were too many others to observe. Presumably, though, they were not there to see his playing partner, Jeff Maggert, the US tour's an-

swer to David Gilford. It was a beautiful Georgian morning, with no hint of the frost of the previous day when walking on the grass was prohibited. "It turns the grass yellow and that won't look good on television," said the security guard. Twenty four hours later, Ballesteros did his hest to oblige by finding hunkers off the first two tees.



Seve Ballesteros plays out of the bunker during his round of 73 at Augusta yesterday

sand at the fourth and seventh. But only once was he in the trees, earlier at the seventh. When the recovery did not materialise, the unthinkable was thought: perhaps it was time to

On the front nine, he was in five hunkers and failed to get up and down from greenside up and down from greenside spans the pond in front of the under the five hunkers and failed to get wall of Sarazen's hridge that the caddie. "No problem," Ballesteros told him. He promptly hooked the ball round and over

green and bounced into a kind position from which he could chip and putt for a hirdie. "It was a good hreak," he said. "As you know, I am always lucky."

The genuine Ballesteros releave the great one and catch a covery finally arrived at the glimpse of the early pacesetter, the Crewe Cowboy.

Perseverance paid off at the par-five 15th. His four-wood

last, where he was in the trees on the right. "What are we going to do now?" said a worried Martin Gray, his relatively new Martin Gray, his relatively new and a bigger one a hit further

the two trees in front of him, and it came off the bank on the right to finish just off the green, 15 feet from the flag. Of course, then he almost chipped in for a hirdie that would have got him

hack to level par. "It was a great shot," said the away. And also move it 45 degrees from right-to left. I almost hut he is worth watching for a holed the chip. It would have few years yet.

been a good way to finish." A one-over 73 in only his ninth full round of the year, while he is still getting used to his new Cohra clubs, and with a throat infection, was a good start.

"I played a little better today," Ballesteros said. "It was smiling Spaniard. "I had to clear a small tree in front of me, and a bigger one a hit further Nicklaus 10 years ago? Not even Seve is expecting that,

## Fry under fire from police

RFU is 2,000.

PHIL SHAW

Barry Fry, the Birmingham City manager, may face censure by the Football Association after forecasting that Wednesday's First Division match at Millwall "could be a time bomh".

After the game, the return fixture of a match last November that was marred by crowd trouble, 120 Metropolitan policemen, supported by officers on horseback, baton-charged 150 Millwall fans outside the New Den. A hrick hit the Birmingham team bus, hut did not hreak the window.

Chief Superintendent Ken Chapman criticised Fry's "in-apropriate" remarks, saying: "It was never going to be an easy match, but it was certainly not helped by comments from peo-ple who I believe should have known better." An FA spokeswoman said that statements by Birmingham officials "did not escape our attention".

Leeds United plan a major overhaul of personnel during the summer - but their embattled manager, Howard Wilkinson, will be overseeing it rather than leaving.

Wilkinson received fresh support yesterday from Leeds' managing director, Bill Fotherby, who has become acting chairman after Leslic Silver's resignation on health grounds. "I know all

the managers in the Premiership and First Division, and Howard is better than 90 per cent of them," Fotherby said. "We have a good sound base here with the young players, and now we need some fresh and experienced players."

Everton's designs on the £4m-rated Gary Speed are well known while Arsenal may follow up their interest in Gary McAllister, Brian Deane, Rod Wallace, Carlton Palmer and Tomas Brolin are also likely to be sold to finance signings.

Silver, who retains the controlling interest in the cluh's shares, warned: "It's going to be a very difficult summer with a lot of recruitment to do, new players to come in and new systems to develop."

Faustino Asprilla and Keith Curle will face the FA on 30 April over their infamous tangle when Newcastle visited Manchester City. The England winger Darren Anderton played his first full 90 minutes since September in a Tottenham reserve team match at Bristol

City on Wednesday night, Ivano Bonetti, Grimsby's former Juventus midfielder, yesterday pledged his future to the club and may reappear in tomorrow's match against West Bromwich Albion. Bonetti has not played since February, when he suffered a fractured cheekbone in an altercation with Brian Laws, the player-manager.

### **Rough for Diamonds**

Non-League notebook Monday, despite Alford's third

RUPERT METCALF

The battles for the two available promotion places to the GM Vauxhall Conference are both hecoming tight, tense contests. Hayes, the Icis League leaders, are only one point ahead of the second and third-placed teams while, in the Beazer Homes League, Rushden & Diamonds are finding life tough at the top.

Since spending a non-League record fee of £85,000 to prise the striker Carl Alford from Kettering, Rushden have found points hard to come by and now lead Halesowen Town - who are also eligible for promotion - by only two points, although Rushden have a game in hand. Alford scored on his dehut at home to Halesowen hut could not prevent a 2-1 defeat - and there was worse to come: a 1-0 home loss to lowly Dorch-

Alford scored an 88th-minute

goal for his new club, they crashed to a 4-1 defeat at Sudbury Town, for whom the former Birmingham City striker Ian Brown struck all four goals.

At the top of the Icis League, Haves also have a game in hand over their two closest rivals - hut they will have to hit peak form in the run-in to see off the challenge of secondplaced Enfield and third-placed Yeovil. All three clubs are eligible for promotion.

Another leading Icis League club, St Albans City, lost their player-manager last weekend when Allan Cockram resigned just three days after agreeing a new three-year contract with the Clarence Park club.

Cockram, who last night filled the managerial vacancy at Chertsey, effectively quit during last Saturday's East Anglian Cup tie against Soham when he substituted himself after 65 minutes of the match and removed his shirt on the pitch. "What he did was winner as Rushden sneaked a a disgrace. He has let the club 2-1 success over Cambridge down," Bernard Tominey, the St

## Atlanta officials under fire

**Olympic Games** 

Organisers of this summer's Games said yesterday that their \$1.7bn (£1.13hn) project would be ready for the opening ceremony in exactly 100 days, despite reports of chronic delay and missed deadlines.

"[The projects] that are unfinished are unfinished by design," Billy Payne, the chief executive of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games. said. "We will be ready to celebrate the best Olympic Games ever, which will begin in 100 adays' time.

"All of the construction is now

completed. The venues are extremely safe, they are extremely beautiful and they are extremely functional," he said.

Payne was responding to a flurry of media reports which allege a litany of delay and disaster in the ambitious Olympic reconstruction which is transforming Atlanta's city centre.

Despite Payne's assurances. a mountain of work remains to be done at many venues and Olympic sites to prepare them for the world's higgest sporting event from 19 July to 4 August. Non-ACOG projects such as repaying freeways and replanting verges has made the city a gigantic hard-hat site.

a 6-3, 7-6 victory. Rafter, who

has been out of action since the

Centennial Olympic Park, at the heart of the city and the main public focal point for the Games, is still full of diggers and potholes, with little showing through the mud to indicate its

finished form. Work at the aquatics centre is delayed because of a construction accident. Other venues, including the shooting complex and the whitewater sports venue on the Georgia-Tennessee border, are behind schedule.

The most embarrassing delay so far was the chaos involving a six-nation pre-Olympic hockcy tournament, which had to use a university campus pitch instead of the Olympic venue.

## **Final reprieve for Fairbank**

**Rugby League** DAVE HADFIELD

Bradford Bulls' veteran forward, Karl Fairbank, has been cleared for a first Challenge Cup final appearance later this month when he was hanned for one match last night.

The 32-year-old former Great Britain forward will miss this Sunday's Wembley rehearsal at St Helens but will be free from suspension in time for next Friday's match against Wigan and the final on 27 April.

Fairbank was sent off for a high tackle at Sheffield Eagles on Good Friday - a dismissal which he feared could cost him his last chance of playing in a Cup final. Halifax, beaten in their first three Super League matches,

will be without Paul Anderson and Graeme Hallas for the next two matches after they were suspended by the League's disciplinary committee last night. Anderson was sent off for a high tackle in the Good Friday

match against Oldham and Hallas was later ordered to appear on a similar charge after an ap-praisal of the video of an incident in which Oldham's Rob Myler had his nose badly broken.

Hallas and Anderson will start their suspensions by missing tonight's match at Warrington.

Shelford replaces him at scrum-half, with Mateaki Mafi and Gary Chambers also coming into the starting line-up. Mark Jones and Salesi Finau are dropped. Leeds have announced the first of three overseas signings that they hope to make within the

who have agreed to sell Michael Ford to Wakefield Trinity. Kelly

next week. He is Neil Picchi, a 21-year-old loose forward from Hawkes Bay, who has also played for the New Zealand Maoris. Picchi has agreed a one-year contract with Leeds, who are also being linked with another

member of last season's Maori

side, the former Hull Kingston

ester in their next match. City on Easter Saturday hut, on Albans chairman, said. Rovers half-back, Dean Clark.

#### Sampras has a struggle serve as he came through with

Pete Sampras, the top seed from the United States, fought off an aggressive challenge from Australia's Patrick Rafter to reach the quarter-finals of the Hong Kong Open yesterday. The defending champion. Michael Chang, seeded to meet Sampras in the final, also had

a few anxious moments before reaching the last eight with a 7-5, 6-3 win over Hendrik Dreekmann of Germany. Sampras had difficulty cop-

Australian Open in January hecause of a wrist injury. matched Sampras for long periods but the world No 89 could not live with the American in the vital second set tie-break. Thomas Muster, the world No 1 from Austria, who has been struggling to justify his new po-

sition, reached the quarter-finals of the Estoril Open clay-court ing with Rafter's big-kicking ser- event in Portugal after beating vice but was solid on his own Spain's Carlos Moya 6-4, 6-2.

### Beadsworth stays in hunt

Sailing

Andy Beadsworth, Barry Parkin and Adrian Stead are progressing strongly in the elimination trials in San Remo, Italy, lo find the 13 countries from Europe to contest the Soling class at the Olympics this year. writes Stuart Alexander

They were fourth after six races with four left to sail. At the halfway mark in the Star eliminations on Lake Garda, Glyn Charles and George Skoudas have hauled themselves just out of the danger zone, lying 13th of the 15 who will qualify, but with five more races to run.

In Warsash the twins, Sally and Jessica Cuthbert, are second in the RYA Holt National Youth Championships by one point from Gillian Hooton and Jennifer Heeley after five races with two more on today's final day. The Cuthberts are the reigning world youth champions, with Sally looking for a fourth consecutive go at the title. The boys' 420 is led by Chris Draper and Daniel Newman, the Laser boys by Owen Modral and the Laser Radial girls by Briony Percy.

Potand's Wanda Panfit, the women's London Marathon winner in 1990 and runner-up in 1989, has withdrawn from this year's event on 21 April through illness, after being bitten by an insect during attitude training. ISSES-GROTALE
AMERICAN LEAGUE: Detroit 7 Seatule 3; Baldmore 3 Cesetand 2 (10 Innings); Toronto 1 Calnome 3.2 Postponed: Boston v Minnesota.
NATIONAL LEAGUE: SI Louis 4 Monreal 1: Houston S San Franceco 11: Colorado 10 Chicago
Cubs 9; Pittisburgh 6 Philadelphia 7; Cincinnad
9 New York Mets 7; Los Angeles 9 Arbota 2; San
Dego 3 Fionda 0.

Basketball

B39 NUTANAME
MBAE Boston 108 Weshington 122; Chentotte 95
Miami 116; Detroit 92 Philadelphia 76; Ortando 116 Ceveland 104; Minnesota 90 IA Lakers 111; Ush 103 Phoenar 79; Sen Ansonio 105
Vancouver 82; Seettle 108 Sacramento 89.

Cricket

Nigel Briers, the Leicestershire opener, could miss the first two months of the season after undergoing knee surgery. John North, an all-rounder, has joined Northamptonshire on a two-month trial. Colin Stuart, the Guyanese pace bowler, has been called up to replace the intes been cause up to repace the tri-jured Curtly Ambrose in the West Indies' 13-man squad for tomorrow's one-day international against the World Cup wri-ners, Sri Lanka.

Ners, Sri Lanka.

WEST MORES SQUAD (One-day international variation). Variation, Port of Spale. Theided, formore C wish fears, Philaber. S Cranderpart, B Lara, PS remons, B Hoider, Address, C Browne, R Herper, I. Williams, I Bottop, S Williams, C Shant.

TOUR MATCH (Mingalation), St Vincent; final day of throse: New Zealand 2018 for 9 certs of P Ferning 61. A C Parone 59. R J Asia 55) and 204 det C Harry 5-20; West Index Board 21 158 (S Campbell 79, C Camp 5-23) and 209. New Zealand with by 158 rues.

Football "

The Brazilian champions Botatogo have sacked their coach, Marrino Perez, halfway through a two-game trip to Chile after a poor start to the new season.

SPORTING DIGEST Supporters of the French League lead-ers, Auxerre, will be barred for their own protection from tomorrow's French Cup semi-final in Marseille. Although extra units of not police have been request-ed, Marseille said they felt unable to guarantee the security of visiting fans. reyenoord have bought 250 tickets from their own fans to stop them travelling to next Thursday's European Cup Win-ners' Cup match at Rapid Vienna. Last month Uefa banned the Dutch club's supporters from attending the semi-fina, second-leg match, following crowd trouble at Feyencord's quarter-final against Borussia Mönchengladbach in

Phil Masmga and Lucas Radebe, both of Leeds United, and the Wolves forward Mark Williams have been included in South Africa's squad for the friendly international against Brazil's Olympic side in Johannesburg on 24 April.

in Johannesburg on 24 April.

SOUTH AFRICA SQUAD (Friendly v Brazil
Olympic XI., Johannesburg, 24 April): Gesleosparie: Arandas (Cape Town Spues), Anderson (Uritata Bucks). Defendesis: Flish (Orlando 
Franss), Modarung (Marnelodi Sundowns), Myanthi
(Focar Chiefs), Radebe (Jaeds Uzr), Towey, Eshiandria (Razer Chiefs), Tucker (Fretone Ctyl.) Midfielders: Buthalez? (Marnelodi Sundowns),
(Dasmado (Columbus Crew. US), Masifiola
(Marnelodi Sundowns), Middiales (Pricardo Pricas),
(Modiso (Facer Chiefs), Moed! (Orlanda Pricas),
Modiso (Facer Chiefs), Moed! (Orlanda Pricas),
Modiso (Facer Chiefs), Moed! (Orlanda Pricas),
Mostingua (Inoda Utri), Stober (Helleric),
Williams (Woles).

Lingmooth emidficialer (Green Burlos), espe-Liverpool's midfielder Karen Burke is set

to return for England in their penulti-mate European Women's Championship quelifier against Croatia in Osijek on 18 April. England, beaten 2-1 by Italy in Cosanza last month when Burke was missing through injury, currently lie sec-ond in Group Three and will be looking to repeat their performance when they beat Croatia 5-0 in November. Desi: Crostes 5-U H November.

ENGLAND Wossen's SQUAD (European Championship Group Three v Croatia, Osipia, 18 Aprill: Cope (Milwell), Lacey (West Ham), Bampton (Croydon), Mapes (Croydon), Market (Evertan), Wheatley (Asens), Phillip (McLindli), Davis (Croydon), Barket (Liverpool), Smith (Westbley), Ceultard (Doncaster), Williams, Croydon), Proetia (Croydon), Buddey (Asens), Edey (Donaster), Proetia (Croydon).

WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESILES: Endeleigh In-surance League Frast Division: Milwell 2 Bern-ingham O. Beil's Seottish League Premier Division: Catto: 1 Kimpmock 1; Hearts 2 Rangers O. Iots League Premier Division: Year-ng O Borsham Wood 3. Seotod Division: Leather-head 1 Brackmell 3. Cartten Trophy senti-flust: Represent 7 Tahur 1 (Arte ettra fore). Uniflued Rangers D, Irist League Prentier Division: Yearing O Boerham Wood 3. Sected Division: Leafuring O Boerham Wood 3. Sected Division: LeafurBerstead 2 Nibury 1 (refor eros finne). Uniform
Lougue Prender Division: Part Avenue O Congletion O.
Presidents' Cap sensi-final second leg. Barnber Bridge 2 Worksop 2 (org. 2-3). Beacar House.
Lougue Middend Division: Bucting and Ing.
Barnber Bridge 2 Worksop 2 (org. 2-3). Beacar House.
Lougue Middend Division: Division:
2 Bury Yown 2: Beestern 1 Softwar 2: Racing
Chub Werneck 1 Reddend 3. Seathers Division:
Poole O Treetning 8. Dr. Martens Cup sensifinal second leg. Sachoury 1 Baldock 1 (aggl1-1; Baldock win on away goods). Winstoniand
Kent League Frest Division: Dardock 1 (aggl1-1; Baldock win on away goods). Winstoniand
Kent League Frest Division: Prediction: Mutton 2
Whitaby 1: Whoderam O Durham 1; Tow Law 3
Stidon O. Northern Counties East League Premier Division: Goole 2 Brig 1. Willideson Sword
Trophy assend-final first leg. Louth 1 Porterfact
2. North West Counties League Frest Division:
Burscough 1 Trafford 1. Limphet Sesses: County League Prist Division: Paccelaren &
Teleconido 3 Rengmer 0; Sarron 3 Largies Sports
1. Hereverard United Counties League PreBlacksone 0 Synesbury 2. League of wates;
Ebok Vale 2 Afan Lido 2; Holywell 1 Caerrarfon 2; Inter Carniff 2 Birtion Ferry 1. Press and
Journal Highland League; Cachimacudin 5 Fon
Wilson 2; Coue Rangers O Presschung 0 (abandoned 21min – fog); Keith 1 Hurthy 2; Rothes
3 Eigh 4. Poetfats League; First Division: Baldoch
Jennish 1; Boirt 1; Sobe 1; Becond DiVision: Aston Wils 1 Huddersfield 2: Blackburd 2 Eventon 1; Boirt 0 O Christon 2; Drives

23 Eigh 4. Poetfats (4 Strengbury 4; Scanborough
2 Chesterfed 1; Scanthoppe 0 Chester Gly 0, Middesbough 1 Port Vele 1; York 2 Preston 2 Third

Division: Datangen 0 Lancoln 2; Donasser 4 Wign 1; Rochalae 4 Str Torquey I Bourremouth 4, ballen Leegan: Aularita 1 (Ven pen 22) Barl 2 (Proti 70, 77);
Caglard 1 (Wis 32) Milan 2 (Nepoti 70, 77);
Caglard 1 (Wis 32) Milan 2 (Nepoti 93, 55)
va og 78); Internationale 0 Sempotion 2 (Chesse
43), pen 68); Livertus 2 (Revinella 22; Veschovod
43) Itilmese 1 (Stroppa 15); Lison 4 (Winter 14,
Segrosi 33, pen 52; Casingsy 83) Fromitina 0;
Napoti 1 (Boghassan 30) Tormo (P Padove 1,
Victoria 83) Forms 2 (Forseca 45; Cappais 82);
Parma 2 (Milass 58), 2019 90 Certarroses 0;
Paceuras 0 Victoria 1 (Rosal 79); Leading positiones: 1 (Mah (P29, P263); 2 Juvertus
(29-57); 3 Forserfora (29-53), German Languez
Bayeri Muruch 1 (Kinsmann 89) St Pauli 1

(Schweissing 43); Warder Bremen 2 (Beschastnykh 3; Labbada 83) Borusse Mönchengladbach (); Fortune Düsseklorf 2 (Memer pen 65; Brehme og 73) Rostresteuten 1 förlug 34). Top two: 1 Bayern Munich (P27, P554); 2 Borusse Dortmund (26-53), French Languse: Mez 2 (Pougal 17, 34) Busta 0; Lyon 1; Maurice 19) Guingemp (Gravelsine pen 75). Durtch Laeguse: Reyenord 1 (Konman 74) Spenta Rotterdem 1 (Van der Len 38), Speniah Tup float Ardetto Madnd 1 (Partoc 103) Barcelona 0 (arfer extre time). Pertoglance Cup east-finale: Perto 1 Sporting Lebon 1 (ast): Berlina 2 Unida Lefra 0 (set), Instensational friendly (Ostjekt; Crostla 4 (Brejeok 6, Suiser 23, Parnic 65, Stanto 75) Hungary 1 (Negr 39).

TSURINA OPEN (Tokyo) Leading first-rount accress (Impanese unless stabed): 67 P Serie (Aus.) 68 Kessuron twesters: Tsyposh Yoneyo ma; Kessuron Tokatsahu, 70 P McMhirney (Aus.) 71 Yoshmon Naneku; S Ginn (Aust; Ryc

ICB BIOCHESY
MH1: Buffato 5 Ditawa 2: Detreat 5 Winnapeg 2: Florida 1 Tampa Bay 2; New Jersey 1 Philadelphia 5; NY Rangers 1 Washington 4; Pitsburgh 2 NY Islanders 6; Colorado 7 Anahelm 3; Edmonton 2 Delias 4; Los Angeles 6 San Jose 2. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Eindhovent): Latvia 6 Japan 1, (Wed) Poland 3 Japan 3; Denmark 3 Nethelands 0; Belarus 4 Switzerland 2;

Rugby Union

The International Rugby Football Board has appointed the 52-year-old American-born trishman, Thomas J Wacker, to the newly-created position of chief executive. Wacker will supervise and coordinate the transfer of IRFB activities from Bristol to Dublin.

Kitch Christie, who coached South Africa to victory over the New Zealand All Blacks In last year's World Cup final, resigned yesterday for personal reasons related to a long standing health problem. He will be replaced by Andre Markgraafi with Ray Mordt remaining as assistant

coach. SUPER-12 (Hamilton, NZ): Warketo 17 NorthWEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Courage Clubs' Championship National League One: Gloucester 16 Bath 10. Willis Corror Hibernia Cap: Royal Navy 12 RAF 14.

The World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association decided yeterday that world ranking events will be restricted to 96 piayers from the 1997/98 season. The move will dispense with six or seven qualifying rounds for each of the circuit's 10 ranking events at Biackpool each summer. Other players will compete on B and C circuit's in each player. each summer. Other players will com-pete on B and C circuits to eam places in a four-week summer qualifying school, to which those finishing in places 65-96 on the main tour will be relegated.

WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Premier Laugue: Long Eston 53 Scottleh Monarchs 43; Hull 58 Coetny 37. Watch Chemplemath British semi-fixed (Poole): 1 K Tetum (London) 15; 2=P Huny (London) 12; 3 Wilson (Bradford) 12; 4=N Collins (Belle Vue) 10; R Moron (Reading) 10; C Stonehewer (Long Eston) 10.

Tennis

ESTURIL OPEN (Lisboot) Second round: A Corretta (Sp) bt. J Novak (Cr Rep) 8-4 6-2; T Muster (Aut) bt C Moye (Sp) 8-4 8-2.

INDIAN OPEN (New Defin) Men's singles, second round: A Redulescu (Ger) bt W Ferrera (SA) 8-1 6-1; C Carotti (It) bt. N Min (Swe) 7-6 7-5; B Back (Zen) bt. O Saposhori (GB) 8-1 6-2; I Golmert (Fr) bt. J Winnink (Nett) 6-1 6-3. merd (Fr) tr. J. Warnam, Nestri) 6-1 6-3.

HONG KONG OPEN Second round: O Princel (Ger) br W Arthurs (Aus) 6-4 6-4; S. Matsuoka (Japan) br M Woodforde (Aus) 6-4 2-6 8-4; J. Semenniv (Nestr) br K Carlsen (Den) 6-3 8-4; T. Woodforge (Aus) br T Johansson (Swe) 6-1 6-2 R Knylesk (Nestr) br A Wolkov (Rus) 7-6 6-3; M Denrim (CZ Rep) br G Pozzi (ti) 6-3 6-2; P Sempas (US) br P Raiter (Aus) 6-3 7-6; M Chang (US) br P Raiter (Aus) 6-3 7-6; M R

BAUSCH AND LOMB CHAMPONESHPS (Amelia Inland, Floridat) Second round: A Sanchez Vicano (Sp) bx C Papadala (Gr) G-0 7-6; M J Ferrandez (US) bx R Zhistokova (Slovak) 6-3 6-3;
S Hack (Ger) bx A Decharume Ballegrar (Fr) 6-1
6-0; M McGrath (US) bx K Renaldi Stunier (US)
1-6-6-3-6-2 v Marmeth (Ger) bx E Makarous (Rus)
7-5-5-7-6: Jr Stunier (Arg) bx R Dagomar (Rum)
7-5-6-2; T Jechnenco (Yug) bx K Maleesa (Bur)
6-4-3-6-6-4; W Probst (Ger) bx L Nedardi (Lad)
7-5-6-2: V Rusno-Pascual (Sp) bx L Ghrandi-Rub
bx (Fr) 6-2-6-2.

#### TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football BASS RISH CUP Semi-final: Glentoren v Crusaders (7.30) (at Windsor Park, Belfast). BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier

Division: Bohemians v University College Dublin (7.45): Drogheda v Dundaik (7.45): St Patrick's Arhietic v Galway (7.45): Ath-Rugby League STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Warrington v Hal-

Speedway
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP British semi-fipal (7.45) (at Oxford).

TODAY'S

(7.30); Peterborough v Reading (7.30).

MER LEAGUE: Belle Vue v Exeter

NUMBER 30

The height in inches (76.2cm) of the most sought after and the most difficult to win piece of silverware in football - the FA Carling Premiership trophy. Made from sterling silver, the trophy weighs 19lb 4oz (9kg) and is worth £21,000.



#### HELL OF THE NORTH

Robin Nicholl on 100 years of the Paris-Roubaix cycle race

## Clubs' pull-out leaves rugby on brink

STEVE BALE

With barely three weeks of this season remaining, English rug-by's leading clubs yesterday commenced divorce proceedings

from the Rugby Football Union. Irreconcilable differences over the administration and financing of the new professional game have caused them to announce their withdrawal from next season's RFU league and cup competitions to play in their own. In desperation the clubs - the 20 in the First and Second Divisions who constitute English

Professional Rugby Union Clubs

good offices of the RFU presi-dent, Bill Bishop, as the only mediator now capable of effecting a mutually acceptable resolution.

The clubs want to run autonomously and receive directly the income generated by their competitions, which have a significantly different format from those announced by the RFU on

As things stand, the clubs and the union each say they are the only ones to have compromised during three months of increasingly fraught discussions.
"Even at this late hour we be-

lieve that a compromise solution must be reached with the RFU, otherwise there will be a split in the sport for which the RFU will

be held responsible."

Donald Kerr of Harlequins, the EPRUC chairman, said in concluding a lengthy statement:
"We are therefore appealing to

the president to step in and use his authority to find a way forward before there is an irrevocable break between the clubs and union." Accordingly, Kerr yesterday wrote to Bishop to this end. "I have had conversations with Bill Bishop and I am hopeful that he will progress matters as we hope," Kerr added. A clubs plan is already in place

for a two-tier European competition, a domestic league to be known as the English Conference and an Anglo-Welsh competition comprising a full 24 clubs. In

straight contradiction of the RFU, EPRUC says it has broadcasters and sponsors ready to step in with the £1m they each require to fund professionalism next

Meanwhile, the clubs also formally expressed their anger at and inability to deal with Cliff Brittle, chairman of the RFU executive, and have grown so hostile to him that any reconciliation will remain virtually impossible as long as he heads the union's

negotiating team. Yet as recently as Tuesday Brittle, who was elected by the RFU grassroots in January in the face of the executives' unanimous opposition, absolutely refused to step aside and repeatedly insist-

tle was just as firm. "The RFU must maintain overall control of the game in the interests of all its members," he said.

It was the clubs' infuriated response to Tuesday's implacable RFU position as articulated by Brittle that caused them to hold yesterday's EPRUC board meeting in London. For now they remain members of the union and will join about half of the membership in staying outside the of-

ficial competitive structure. Crucially, the clubs say they have the support of the leading players, but we can now expect an auction with the union for their services, since those who opt

ed he had the RFU negotiators' out of the Courage Champi-full support. And last might Brit-ouship could hardly be expectonship could hardly be expect-ed to be considered favourably for England. Jack Rowell, the England manager, could be excused for being in despair. EPRUC also claimed to have

the full support of their Welsh counterparts - and even of the Welsh Rugby Union, which is supposedly not interested in the Anglo-Welsh competition laid down by the RFU.

Finally, they have an important body of support among the RFU executive members whom Brittle chairs and are now relying on their influence being exercised in support of Bishop and a settlement.

Brittle's mandate comes from

the mass of small clubs who voted for him against the RFU committee's own nominee three months ago. This explains why the RFU has become so adamant in its refusal to cede the slightest authority. Brittle is clearly charged with preventing

a few clubs hijacking the union. "It's obvious it's an amateur organisation running a body for amateur clubs," Peter Wheeler, Leicester's chief executive and an EPRUC spokesman, said yesterday. But we are not amateur clubs any more. The Rugby Union have made it clear they haven't got any more money to fund the professional game than

they had last year."
The crux of the problem has

become apparent: EPRUC be-lieves the RFU to be neither able - because of the £35m debt croated by re-building Twickenham nor willing to generate funds needed to pay for the profes-sionalism the RFU's own rep-resentatives accepted at the

International Board last August. The bail is now back in the union's, or at any rate Bill Bish-op's court. "We all realise that together we must be stronger than if we are apart." Wheeler said. We are moving to the point where we are staring down the barret - and at that point common sense has to prevail." The trouble is one man's common sense is another's nonsense.

Brittle's battle, page 23

### 60th US MASTERS: The cattle farmer from Crewe has a round of 69 but Phil Mickelson leads. Tim Glover reports from Augusta

## Gilford beefs up his game

On a decibel level, David Gilford moment seemed to come to barely registers and yesterday he rest two feet from the hole, let his golf do the talking to ap-rolled back down the hill and the last year, shot 69 in a round of tional's standards.

Gilford, who 40 Hereford cattle (no BSE hut their value 2 has plummetled hriefly here 12 months ago and yesterday he was in splended isolation at four under par when he

is a classic par three of 170 yards, 160 of which are over wa- 9-iron approach shot to within ter. Gilford chose a 6-iron and four feet and rolled in the putt there was little wrong with his for a birdie three, which got him selection of club.

The trouble is the hole had been cut back right of the green and Gilford's first putt lost mo- ter hitting a cracking drive Gilthe slope. The ball, which for a

Hole Yards Par Hole Yards Par many golfers at Augusta National but to his Out 3,465 36 in 3,460 36 credit Gilford Total 6.925vds did not appear walked to the 16th tee. The 16th to let the experience rattle him.

At the 17th he hit a beautiful which goes by the name of Azalea, was generous to a fault. The hole measures 485 yards and af-

pear on the leaderboard after the Englishman could only stand and first round of the 60th Masters. watch as it gained pace. He was The man from Crewe, who fin- now 10 feet further from the hole ished joint 24th on his debut here than he was in the first place. Gilford, having learnt his leshighs and lows that was extra- son, put more beef into his ordinary even by Augusta Na- next putt and the hall finished four feet above the flag. He missed and fitends a herd of CARD OF THE COURSE nally walked off the hole called Redbud with a four-putt douhle-bogey five. Mad putting disease afflicts

back to three under par for the stream in front and a battery of much, at the last leg of the trin-edge of the green. Two putts gave under par 67, it was a "beauti-eighth and had a stunning back ball sailed through a forest of The ball arced through the round. If the 16th bad been cru- hunkers behind and the dilem- ity of holes known as Amen him a birdie four and he also ful morning for golf." There nine with five hirdies, three of pines hut when he hit his secpale hlue sky and came to rest el to Gilford, the par five 13th, ma facing every player is Corner. Lucky 13. If that aphirdied the third.

were no clouds on the horizon them on Amen Corner. "I ond back through, the ball clatmentum as it tried to negotiate ford had 185 yards to the pin. he knocked in the putt for an The green is protected by a eagle three, thank you very



whether to go for it or lay up short of the water. Gilford went for it with a 3-iron, the hall finished 10 feet from the hole and

peared to be perfect way, ap-

pearances can be deceptive. The Crewe cowboy actually mishit the 3-iron. Had he played the shot as he intended he would have gone through the green. "It was a combination of too much club and a poor shot," Gilford admitted. Gilford also had a stroke of luck at the second, where he pulled his approach shot left and his hall struck a spectator and rebounded to the

US unless stated;

denotes amateur

67

B Tway

Lianzen

Gilford said he was better prepared for this tournament than at any other. Asked if he could win the Masters. Gifford whispered in the affirmative. "I like the course," he said, "and that's always an advantage. I don't think the greens are too severe. It's a challenging course and the punishment for a had shot can be hrutal."

As Boh Twey remarked, after coming home in 31 in a five

D Ford

C.Coody . . . .

KTriplett, E Dougherty, N. Lancaster, T. Herron, B.

B Bryant, M McCumber

EARLY FIRST-ROUND SCORES

T Aaron, J Maggert, F Nobilio (NZ), N Price

S Ballesteros (Sp)

and no wind to disturb the azaleas in their beds. Even so, Tway's round was surprising on account of his poor record at Augusta National. His last ap-pearance here was in 1991 when he missed the halfway cut. "I've been watching the tournament on television," the 36year-old from Oklahoma said.

and maybe I learned something from that." Tway got his first birdie at the

S LYLE (GB), K Pony

F Funk, P Goydos .

B LANGER (Got), "J Coun

J. Hassa, T. Lehman

wasn't struggling to make par and that's important out here," he said. Tway is two strokes be-hind Phil Mickelson, who was coming home in 30 in a round

of 65, seven under. John Daly, the Open champion who was paired with the former Masters champion Nick Faldo, sliced his drive so far right.

tered into one of the pines and travelled no more than 20 yards. Then the former Wild Thing hit a hrilliant third shot to with four even hotter on the back nine, feet of the flag and made the putt to save par. Faldo, who was 75 yards behind Daly with his drive, at least found the fairway

and he too made par. Daly capitalised with three birdies in five holes and Faldo off the first tee he nearly end- also picked up shots with birdies ed up in the parking lot. Daly's on the third and eighth.

#### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



- 1 Bun left unfinished (stomach upset) in the countryside (7)
  5 Young tree it's fading with one cut (7)
- 10 Resourceful putting most of lines on a slate (9)
  11 Church leader in Rome beld
- 12 Died in the fog, right in the 27 First male worker's not to be
- natic (9)
  18 Politician's a good chap? One inviting in crooked mates! (9)

  1 Lie upside-down, long departed from pub, affected by double vision? (7) natic (9)
- Sexually attractive girl, one dirched by any MP with a hint of honesty (5)
   Nearly all inferior shots go
- dance with the 9-to-5 system?
- Resourcerul, putting most of the second state (9)

  Church leader in Rome held back about line in historical actions about the inhistorical actions are second-like mam-
- 27 First mate worker's not to be centre (5)

  13 Words of song piercing the disgustingly rich (5)

  15 I show the way to a raving luminit (7)
  - DOWN

- - Criminal with field, we bear, for flowering plant (9) Film actress teaching ne er initially (5) What signifies dog's at home? A den, a stick, and Master
- (4,5) Look to get Prince involved in party (5) Bird beading for pole – a mi-
- grant, seen flying (9)
  The old story one Irish par-liament brought up (5)
  Old King a consumer on a
- bigger scale (7) 14 Soft drink takes the best with a party coming up (5.4)
  16 Let native out for air (9)
  17 Calm or consumed with anger
- 18 Persistence shown by Francis of Assisi, say, with a bird (7)
  20 Aggressive tailless pig standing helore entrance to field? (7)
  22 Graduate embracing pale mas-
- Opening jump? Famous athlete, say, takes it (5)
   Discretion involves one by im-

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#### F. COURSIS, "IS OFESTIVET LUCK C. Pavic, V. Singh (FIG) P. Stevert, M. O'Mostis, F. Zodfier, G. Norman (Main) I WOOSNAM (GES), A CESSA (GES) D A Weibring, J Sluman Still on course: D Wildorf, S Stricker D Gilford (GB), B Faxon 70 'R Plant, D FIDER (SA) J Gallagher Jor. B Maylar G Player (SA). -C Wolling H Invin. M Ozaki (Japan) P Azinger, S McCarron McCarthy handed FA

## **Cup final ticket ban** Football

**PHIL SHAW** 

Mick McCarthy, the Republic nf Ireland manager, was yesterday banned from receiving FA Cup final tickets for 10 years after a Football Association investigation found that tickets issued to him had ended up on sale on the hlack mar-ket for £350 each.

The action against McCarthy, coming barely a week after the FA published a blacklist of 36 players and officials who passed nn Cup final tickets, follows an inquiry by the game's governing body, which was prompted by the findings of trading standards officers from Liverpool who conducted a survey at last year's final between Evertnn and Manchester United.

among a party who parted with what the FA described as "huge sums" for tickets. The fans in question had paid £700 for a pair of £60 tickets. The FA was alertfirst to Millwall and then in Mc-

Carthy, who was manager of the First Division club at the time. An FA spokesman, Steve Double, said: "Mick McCarthy tnid us he had passed on the tickets in an associate at face value, and had made no monetary gain from the transaction, which we accept.

"But he was in breach of the terms and conditions he signed when he received the tickets. They state that tickets should not he passed on, with or withnut payment, unless you have the prior written consent of your Among those the trading county FA, club or the organi-

watchdogs interviewed were sation which made the original two Norwegians, who were allocation."

McCarthy's embarrassment.

and that nf his new employers at the FAI in Dublin, will no doubt be acute. There will be red faces, too, at Lancaster Gate, ed and traced the tickets hack though on this occasion the FA will be glowing with satisfaction at the timing of its pre-emptive strike against touting, which comes less than a month before this year's final hetween Liver-pool and Manchester United.

The FA came under strong pressure from the media and supporters' groups after both FA Cup semi-finals last month played to attendances below capacity amid controversy over high ticket prices. Now it has been able to demonstrate that it does not pay lip service to supparters' complaints,

Fry under fire, page 23 Sports Letters, page 22

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